

George B. Wright and Family Papers

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Version 3
August 20, 2018

A
.W949
vol.1



Impromptu wit
The Chapel Church
left in the lurch
Must surely fall
For church & people
and Bell & Steeple
are crazy all. –

answer impromptu
The Church still lives
a priest survives
with mind thats sane.
Revere – resounds
The Bell resounds
and all is well again.

A
W945
Vol. 1

Alexander Townsend
of Hartford

Roxbury 7. May 1793

John Read Esqr.

Dear Sir.

A firm and unshaken confidence in Your Friendship and candour, embolden me to address you on a private concern, and to solicit your attention to the facts and reasonings I have to offer in support of them. I am not insensible that its a very delicate matter for a Man to speak of himself, and yet I conceive there are occasions when it may be done with pro=priety; indeed, that it becomes a duty he owes to himself and Family to do it.

My manner of life, my plans of Busi=ness, and my pursuits and prospects from early life have been known to you; and I own myself indebted to you for the re=peated confidence you placed in me at my first setting out in the world, by crediting me to large amounts: and I trust the punctual payments I made will convince that that confidence was

not misplaced.

On the 28 Day of September 1777, I bought of you 947 ℔ of Sheeps Wool, towards which (though I have made several very handsome payments) I have stood largely indebted ever since. Whether I made any or what payments during the Paper Money System, I am at this distance of Time unable to say; but from the 19 Day of January 1781. (the Day on which I gave you my promissary Note for £140.) to July 25. 1790, inclusive, I have made the following payments.

Viz.

December 28. 1781. in Cash —— £8.-.8-0

November 30. 1782 in Cash —— 39-.0-.0

March 30. 1785. The obligation was renewed & put into the Form of a Bond, on which I have paid (August 6. 1787) by assignment of 2 Seavers Bond and —— 81-.13-.2½ 8-.11-.6

April 30. 1790. By discharge of my account 9-.7-.1

making in all the Sum of —— £146-.19-.9½

Supposing this Wool to be worth originally, in consequence of the War 2/8 pr ℔, it amounts to —— £125-.6-.8

which leaves towards Interest the Sum of —— £21-.13-.1½

If we calculate all the Interest at 6 pr

Cent that has grown due, taking into view the several payments, at the periods at which they were made, it cannot amount to more than double that Sum; and if we consider that no part of the principal was extinguished in depreciated Paper Money, as was the case with others in similar circumstances, and that the whole amount received has been in Solid Coin, or articles equivolent, the whole of the negotiation will appear more favourable to you, and the stronger against me in proportion.

Having stated these premises, I beg leave, with modesty and candour, to adduce such reasons as have occured to me, which convince me that this Demand ought to be extinguished for a very moderate consideration, if any at all.

1. The Wool itself was really but ordinary, which rendered it unsaleable here; I was therefore obliged to manufacture the greater part of it in various ways and send it to another Market upon Credit; and the Enemy made such depredations as totally ruined the Person who became obligated to me, in consequence of which I lost £140. without the least remedy.

2.

2. My own Misfortunes, I humbly conceive, plead powerfully in my favour. I have indeed, for many Years past, laboured far beyond my strength: I have omitted no opportunity of doing Business; but alass! the events which have taken place in the course of Providence (at which, however, I am far from repining,) have rendered all my efforts abortive.

3. The prime of my life has been devoted principally to the Service of this Town and the Community in general, in which period I have neither shrunk in the Field of Mars nor on the benches of the Legislature; nor has gould, that powerful stimulous to Human exertions, had its effects on my mind: Indeed, I may with great Truth assert, that I have devoted my whole Time without Fee or Reward, while my more Fortunate Friend to whom I am addressing, has obtained an appointment (which he fills much to his Honor and to the benefit of the Public), that cannot fail ultimately to net him

a generous profit, for his great care and indefatigable attention to the duties of it, and which, may I be permitted modestly to add, he obtained principally through my instrumentality.

4. I have always understood that the Demand in question, is the Property of Several Individuals, whose Property is so great as would render the amount due from me, but as the small drop of the buckett to the ocean.

I Submit the foregoing Premises and arguments to the consideration of my Friend. At all events I am unable to make any payment now, and to let the matter lie untill he or I, or perhaps both are Dead, may be productive of many inconveniences to those who may survive us. I am, Sir, Your real Friend, and very humble servant

Signed. Sho Clarke

Roxbury 7. May 1793.

Mr Thomas Williams Junior

Sir, The Letter which you proposed to forward to me, on the 26 ult, in reply to mine of the Day preceding, has not yet come to hand. I am very desirous of being possessed of the Sentements you then communicated; because, if they shall appear to be predicated upon just and fair principles, I shall feel it my duty, in the most formal manner, to acknowledge the force of them; but if otherwise, I shall feel equally solicitous to refute them. I trust in your candour therefore, that you will think proper to put the ideas you suggested in the order you proposed, and favour me with the perusal of them as soon as may be convenient to you.

I am, Sir, your Obedient Servant

Signed Tho Clarke

Roxbury 7 May 1793.

Doctor Nathaniel Ames.

Sir, I wrote you on the 19 ult, requesting that you would forward me the obligation you hold against me, recapitulating the circumstances attending it, and stating my reasons for being solicitous upon the subject. But I have to lament, that neither Obligation or reply have yet come to hand. What should occasion this reticency on your part, I am at a loss to determine. I have certainly done all you requested of me; and nothing more is necessary on your part than to produce Mr Pierponts order and receive your Note: If this is any objection, send the order to me and I will immediately obtain it: If you have any other objections, I wish to know them, and will use my utmost endeavours to remove them. At all events, I am persuaded, Doctor Ames would not retain an Obligation, circumstanced as this is, merely to have it to say, he held one; because I apprehend the candid and judicious would at once determine, it was unkind. I am, Sir,

your Obedient hble Servant

Signed Tho. Clarke

8

Roxbury 9 May 1793.

Honble James Lovell Esqr

Dear Sir, I have had the pleasure of receiving your esteemed favour of the 6th instant, with its inclosures*, this Day; for which, permit me to tender you my most grateful acknowledg:ments. I hope my communication to you of the 4th instant, will not prevent your proposed tour to Roxbury, when it shall be convenient to you: I shall embrace an opportunity of waiting on you with great satisfaction. I return you my most sin:cere Thanks for the Sympathy you express at my Misfortunes; and for your kind assurance of embracing "the least opening to serve me," and am with Truth and Sincerity, Your real Friend,

and very hble servant

Signed Sho Clarke

*. Inclosed in the letter referred to, was 43 Dollars & 40 Cents, which I consider a generous present from Mr Lovell.

9

Roxbury 10 May 1793.

Honble Nathaniel Gorham Esqr

Dear Sir,

I have long since considered that Misfortunes are the common, the unavoidable lot of Human nature; and recent melancholly experience has tended to rivit in my mind the reality of it. When I first set out in life I laboured under every possible disadvantage; without Money, Learn:ing, and, (I had almost said,) without Friends to aid me; consiquently I passed through various vicissitudes of prosperous and adverse Fortune. Under all those circumstances, with a Young and increasing Family, I was, twelve years since, introduced into Public Business; during which period, I served this Town and the Com:munity at large, in various Offices. One year as a Collector, ten Years as a Selectman, seven years as Town Clerk, seven years as a Representative, and six years as a Civil Majistrate; besides those of Parish Clerk, Ass:essor &c, a; all which, in order to appear with

decency, necessarily occasioned an extra expence in full proportion to the pay annexed to them. I may therefore, fairly conclude, that a great part of the prime of my life has been devoted to the service of the Community without Fee or Reward. In addition to this, I find by looking over my private concerns, that I have left more than one thousand Pounds in bad Debts, beside about seven hundred Pounds more by pure Misfortune. Thus seventeen hundred Pounds, or there abouts, has been absorbed, principally in consequence of the part I have taken in Public affairs; now have I a single resource left, except the kind aid of my Friends, and the exertion of my best Talents in future.

A retrospective view of the Scenes I have passed through, and a consideration of my present situation, affects me as it would every Human being that exists: I thank Heaven, that I can submit to it personally with firmness and composure. But, My Friend, when I consider, that a truly vir-

virtuous Wife and seven Innocent Children, are sharers with me in a Catastrophe which, I conceive, no Human Wisdom or Foresight could have effectually guarded against or prevented, I own, it occasions sensations more impulsive upon my Soul than language can discribe.

It is with great satisfaction, that in consequence of the establishment of a Wise and efficient Constitution of Civil Government, I see several of my most valued Friends are amply provided for. Gladly would I engage in the Toils necessarily attendant on Public Office, and participate, in a moderate degree, in the emoluments of it. But "when the Waters are troubled, I have no one to put me into the Pool." Indeed, I am a total stranger to the road to Office; nor do I know to whom to apply with a prospect of succeeding; and Yet, to rust and languish in a state of inactivity and uselessness, I should consider as one of the greatest temporal evils that could happen to me. Nor am I able at this pre-

period of life, with a shattered constitution, to undertake and pursue a course of hard manual Labour; otherwise I would undertake it most cheerfully, and pursue it with alacrity. In short, during my recess from both Private and Public employments, I would undertake any Business I should be judged capable of effecting, at New York, Philadelphia, or any part of the Continent; and would spare no efforts on my part to give Satisfaction. But even this I am at a loss how to obtain.

Thus, Sir, in a firm confidence in your Friendship, I have frankly communicated the true Source of my Misfortunes; all my hopes, my fears, and my prospects; and why should I wish to conceal either from those whom experience has convinced me, are my real Friends? Your acquaintance with Men, with measures, and with the occurrences that take place every day, will naturally lead you to suggest a thousand

expedients which my limited information does not enable me to contemplate. To You therefore, I submit my deplorable situation. — Your kind assistance will be gratefully acknowledged by me; and it will be infinitely more so by one of the most amiable Women on Earth, and a Family of Children truly inoffensive. I am, Sir, with lively sentiments of Esteem, Your Obt hble Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 11 May 1793

Mr Thomas Williams Junr

Sir

Conceiving that several of the Papers contained in the Bundle, will be useful to you in the Settlement of the late Capt Gore's Estate, or at least prevent the trouble of drawing new ones, I have taken the liberty to transmit them herewith.

I am, Sir, Your very hble Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 11 May 1793.

William Hunk Esqr.

Sir I this Day received from Mr Robbins your ordar of the 9th instant; and, in consequence, promised Mr Robbins, I would this Day forward to you the several papers you called for in it. But not having Time to collect the materials I am desirous of communicating, I must beg leave to postpone it until the begining of the next week, when I will forward them to you.

I am, Sir, Your very obt servant

Jno. Clarke

Roxbury 13 May 1793.

Doctor David Townsend

Dear Sir,

Although I have only the pleasure of a slight acquaintance with you, by means of the connection between my good Brother Balch and me, yet I learn, that on several occasions, you have been pleased to express a kind concern for my present situation and future pursuits.

It is an uncontroverted Truth, that the prime of my life has been devoted to the service of the Community, and at a period too the most trying, perhaps, that this country ever experienced. Jealousy and disaffection had unhinged all the powers of Government, and Tumult and Anarchy took place in consequence. - to allay this ferment, to establish Tranquility, and to cement those jarring Interests, was a work of Time, and it required a degree of exertion and assiduity in proportion to the magnitude of the object. During the period in which I was called to act, all those important events took place which gave rise to the establishment of one of the Wisest, most salutary and efficient Systems of

of Civil Government that, perhaps, has ever been adopted by Men; a System which, at once embra=ces all those objects which tend to secure the general Interest, and promote the Happiness of the Body politic. A retrospective view of the Scenes that have taken place, in the course of twelve Years, and the part I have taken in Public business, is a Source of pleasure to me, notwithstanding that I am left to lament my own melancholy fate which has resulted in consequence. — My Time in that period was almost wholly absorbed; in addition to which, I lost more than £1,000, in bad debts, and about £700. more by shear misfortune. But, Sir, what is the fate of individuals when compared to the general Interest of a whole Community? It is less than the small drop of the bucket when compared to the immense Ocean! However deplorable my personal circumstances appear to me and my Friends and, however distressing to a most amiable and truly virtuous Wife and seven interesting

Children, (considerations that would penetrate the Heart of insensibility itself,) Yet I feel a consolation in reflecting, that several of my most valued Friends are amply provided for.

With alacrity would I engage in the Toils necessa=rily attendant on Public Office, and content myself with a moderate share of the Emoluments of it; provided it was not a servile employment, and I could act in it with a becoming Independ=ance of mind. But I am a total Stranger to the road to Office; nor have I the insinuating address of a Chesterfield to wiggle myself into it. Indeed, a Sentiment I have long since imbibed still pervades my mind, and has a more powerful influence upon it than ever; That if a Mans Talents and Worth will not recommend him, he has no claim to preferment, either in Church or State. I feel, however, that I was made cap=able of exertion; and, to spend the remainder of my life in a State of inactivity and uselessness would be the most mortifying of any event in it: I should therefore, consider it as the greatest temporal evil that could happen to me. I am, Sir, with lively Sentiments of Esteem, Your Obliged Servt

Sho Clarke.

Roxbury 14 May 1793.

John Read Esqr

Dear Sir, I did myself the Honor to address you on the subject of a private concern that exists between you and me, on the 7th instant. in which I took occasion to advert to those habits of Friendship we have long been habituated to; to express my acknowledgments for the confidance you early placed in me; to bring into view the real subject of my address; to give you explicitly, under four heads, my reasons why I conceived the "Demand ought to be extinguished for a very moderate consideration, if any at all." and to submit the whole to your consideration: To which I hoped to have been favoured with a catagorical answer; and to have seen your reasons, (if any can be adduced on your part,) why I should not be exonorated from a Demand which, I know, has been, (perhaps

from political motives, for I can conceive of no other,) privately whispered to my disadvantage. As in the course of a week nothing has transpired from you on this subject, I feel it a duty again to advert to it. It is a duty, Sir, that I owe to myself, and to a virtuous Family, that impells me, on this occasion, to be explicit and communicative: It is a duty from which I cannot be absolved without incurring the base reflection of having committed a species of Suicide to myself and those Innocents whom Providence hath seen fit to commit to my care! It is a duty, Sir, from which no Sacred or moral principle can absolve me; and from which, (being convinced of the uprightness of my intentions,) nothing shall divert me.

Knowing, as you certainly do, the Sacrifices I have made of Health, Time,

Pro-

Property, my personal ease and Domestick happiness, to serve the Community, of which, some of those whom I once considered my warmest Friends, will now hardly allow me to be a member; and, the ungratiful treatment I have recently experienced, you cannot, you will not be surprized, that I am thus explicit and solicitous.

The Truth is, I feel it my duty, Honorably, to extinguish all my Just Debts: there are others which I would pay if I was able: Yours is one of this class: and to let it lie peaceably, I apprehend, would only work inconvenience in future. I am therefore desirous, before I enter on a new scene of Business, to come to a settlement. no one shall have reason to complain ultimately, that they have not been

paid; nor, Sir, shall any one have reason to complain that I have been ungrateful. But to set out a new at this period of life, with a load upon my Shoulders that I have been ill able to bear for many years past, is what I never can agree to to; because I conceive it will only tend to imbitter those Days in which I may reasonably hope for repose. While therefore, I am assiduously desirous of treating every class of Fellow Citizens with all due respect, and You in particular, I am determined, that no one, whether a Legislator, a Judiciary, or of the Executive, shall hold what reason, Justice and common sense dictate, is improper. Nor, Sir, do I conceive that this principle militates with Friendship:

on the contrary, it tends to establish it on a more permanent basis. Permit me therefore to request, that you will have the goodness to come to a decision upon the subject of this and my former Letter, and believe me to be, Your real Friend, and Obt Servant.

Tho Clarke

(The following Letter was not sent.)

Roxbury 14 May 1793.

Doctor Nathaniel Ames

Sir, I am truly unhappy to be under the disagreeable necessity of adverting a new to the Obligation, which was the subject of my two Letters of the 19th ultimo, and the 7th instant. Since I am, I have studiously endeavoured, on all occasions, to treat you like a Gentleman I have requested my Obligation in a

decent, Manly, and respectful manner, but notwithstanding, it is still in your possession; for what purpose, I cannot conceive. I hope you will not compell me to state the case to the Public at large, and to call on You in a more formal manner. I am, Sir,

Your Hble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 14 May 1793.

William Hunt Esq

Dear Sir, Pursuant to what I suggested in my Letter of the 11th instant, I forward herewith Cash recd of Rumrill & Kenny £1.17.1. & 3 Exon's. I also inclose one old Exon & sundry other papers which You are desired to pass in Suit as soon as possible. Your very Hble Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 14 May 1793.

Mr Benjamin Beale

Sir,

From the 15th Day of August 1791 to the 12th Day of April last, inclusive, the amount of my dues in the several Bills of Costs, for the Business I have done for you, is Twie pounds Six Shillings. My situation is well known to you; in consiquence of ich I have not one Dollar to resort to: If there fore you can make it convenient to discharge ich, you will essentially oblige me. I am, Sir, your Hble Servt

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 14 May 1793.

Mr Nehemiah Hales.

Sir,

Agreeable to what passed between you and me, on Saturday Evening last, I have conversed with my Friend Major Ruggles on the subject of your request, relative to the Monies you have attached in Connecticut; and am truly sorry to say, that I do not see a prospect of obtaining the consent of the Assignees of Clarke & Gay to comply with your wishes. On my part, you may be assured, I would cheerfully do any thing in my power to relieve you; but under present circumstances, I know not what would be the consequence if I should attempt any thing against the prevailing Sentiments of those Gentlemen.

I am, Sir, your real Friend

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 17 May 1793

William Hunt Esquire

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 15th instant is this moment received; and, agreeable to your requeſt, You will receive herewith the three Writs ſigned, alſo the twelve Blanks you called for.

I am, Sir, very reſpectfully
Your Obt humble ſervant
Sho Clarke

Roxbury 20 May 1793

Doctor Nathaniel Amas.

Sir, I have wrote you ſeveral Times, particularly on the 19th ultimo & the 7th inſtant, requeſting, in a decent and Gentleman like manner, my Obligation; or that you would give me the reaſons why You retain it. I can hardly ſuppoſe that a Gentleman of your good ſenſe, and eſpecially one who has imbibed

liberal ſentiments, as I am to ſuppoſe you have, from early life, would perſiſt in a meaſure which he knows is wrong, from any unworthy motive whatever; and yet, I am conſtrained to owr, I am at a loſs to conceive why, if you have any weighty objections to delivering it up, and receiving the ſmall ballance due upon it, you have not ſtated them to me. It is impoſible I could have any ſiniſter motive in tranſacting this buſineſs for you: If it was poſſible that you could ever imbibe the idea, it appears to me a moments conſideration upon the circumſtances of the tranſaction would tend at once to efface it. Give me leave then to aſk, why you continue to obſerve ſuch a degree of reſerve upon the ſubject? It is either juſt and reaſonable that I ſhould have my obligation, having paid what you requeſted, or it is otherwiſe. My opinion is clearly in the affirmative: If you are of a different opinion, does not every liberal principle point out the propriety (I might have ſaid) the expediency of your giving your reaſons for it? It is true indeed, I did

not literally assume your Obligation given to the late Mr Robert Pierpont; but it is equally true that I long since furnished you with the means of doing it yourself! What could I do more? or what greater confidence could I have place in You as a Friend, a Gentleman, and a Man of Honor? The amount of the object is but trifling, and I might, perhaps, never have discovered the smallest degree of solicitude about it, were it not for the information I had received, that you had mentioned the existance of such a thing. I am truly sorry to be under the disagreeable necessity of saying thus much; but I trust the occasion will fully justify it; and, I shall be more concerned still to be obliged to communicate the whole of this transaction to the Public at large.

I am, Sir, Your Obt Servant

Jno Clarke

May 21. 1793.

Hon John Lowell Esqr

Sir, Some time since I sent you two Books for Your perusal, viz: "Clinton vs Cornwallis" and "Burgoyne's Canada." I have engaged the loan of them to another Friend, when You have done with them: If this is the case, I request you will have the goodness to send them by the little Boy. I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem & respect, Your Obt Servt

Jno Clarke

Roxbury 21. May 1793.

Mr Stephen Williams Junior, Town Clerk.

Dear Sir, In packing up the Town rate rolls, I believe I also put up those belonging to this Parish in the same bundle, and delivered them to you with those belonging to the Town. They are marked in such a manner as to be easily designated; I have to request therefore, that you will be so obliging to search for them, and forward them to me by the first opportunity.

I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Respect, Your Obt Servt

Jno. Clarke

Roxbury 27 May 1793.

Mr. Benjamin Beale,

Sir, On the 14th instant I had the pleasure of writing you; in which I took the libarty of stating the amount due me, of mentioning my situation, and the consiquences that result from it; to which no reply has yet come to hand. The events which have tended to de=press me are so notorious that a recital of them would be superfluous and unnecessary. Personally, I thank Heaven! I can bear them with Firmness and composure; but when I consider, that a truly amiable Wife with seven Innocent children are involved in them, it occasions Sensations beyond expression. I have long been enmir'd to a Spaccis of per==fliction that, perhaps, a few men who has devoted so much of his Time and Pro=perty to the Service of his Fellow Citizens has scarcely experienced: I consider it,

however, as the Lott of Humanity; and, that it's my duty to Submit to it with Patience. Indeed, the Laws of my Country have ever been held by me in the highest estimation; whatever they require therefore, I will comply with with examplary Fortitude and Humility. But, Sir, to See those in whose Welfare and Happiness I cannot but feel deeply interested, and for whom I feel tenderly concerned, languish for want of the common necessaries of life, would occasion feelings too keen for expres=sion. And yet, unless I can obtain a few tri=fles which I have earned out of the common course of my business, this must be the case. I could long since have been engaged in Business; but have hitherto been unable to obtain permission from those who hold me in duress; and to engage in any pur=suit while I may be constantly liable to be harrassed, and perhaps jeapourd the Property

of those who would chearfully aid me, is what I never will agree to, let the consiquences be what they may: though, I confess, that to live a useless life at this period, after having passed through so many active scenes, is extremely painful to me. Indeed, one would suppose, that throwing Benevolence and a genevine Spirit of Magnanimity entirely out of the question, principles of true Policy would produce their effect on the present occasion. But, perhaps some latent motive (for I can hardly conceive it to be down right Malice and ill will), has its effects to prevent the plan I have communicated to those more immediately concerned from being carried into effect. From these ideas you will judge of my situation, and excuse me for renewing my request of the 14th instant. I have likewise to request that you will be so good to call upon me when you come this way, as I

have several matters in your line of business that requires attention.

I am, Sir, your obt humble servant

Wm Clarke

Roxbury 28th May. 1793.

Deacon Samuel Sumner,

Sir,

I am not insensible that various malicious reports have been propogated, by means hypocritical busy-bodies, relative to a private concern between You and me, particularly, "that I never intended to pay you." But I have been supported under these aspersions by a consciousness that I did not deserve them, and the confidance that you (to whom chiefly upon that charge I was responsible) would not adopt it. When little minds think they have got a clue to littleness, it is wonderful with what zeal and dexterity they pursue and improve it. —— It

It is, I apprehend, in consiquence of these reports, that you have hitherto hesitated to accede to the propostion I communicated to you through the medium of our mutual Friend the Rev'd Mr Porter; and which effectually tends to procraftinate the accomplishment of the object you have in view, the complete discharge of the Demand you have againstt me. I have been unemployed for some time, princi=pally on that account, and of course deprived of the only means whereby I could reasonably hope, in a reasonable Time, to emancipate both you and myself! I have offered to relinquish all that I possess, and make use of the best means in my power to discharge the deficiency; Neither the Laws of God or Men requie more! And Yet, strange and unaccount=able as it must appear, the very Persons for whose Interest it is to comply with

the proposals I have to make, appear to affect an indifference about them. Sorry should I be to be under the disagreeable necessity of quiting my abode here or in the Town of Boston, and, at my period of life, seek a retreat from a species of Persecution else=where; and yet, hard as the alternative may appear, I am determined to adopt it, unless I can obtain reasonable terms of those of my Creditors whom I am really desirous of Satisfying. I mention it to you, Sir, with freedom; and my only object in doing it, is, that you may consult your own Interest. For to live an idle, useless, and Inactive life is what I never can or will submit to. Nor will I enter on Busi=ness here, with the aid of any Friend whatever, while his Property must be constantly exposed to be taken to Satisfy the least deficiency. Heaven knows, I feel for your situation, and will chearfully do

any thing in my power to relieve you; but while I am prevented from making use of the means, it is obvious the end cannot be accomplished. I am, Sir,

Your real Friend & humble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 28 May 1793.

Thomas Williams Junior Esqr

Sir, A judicious Author who, in the Year 1760, wrote on the Subject of the discoveries and conquests of the Famous Spanish commanders in South America, from 1492 to 1541, observes, that "an ancient painter drew a satyrical picture of Cimon the Athenian: He represented this commander asleep, and Fortune drawing a net over cities to put them into his possession." This representation, tho' intended to apply to the important events of that Day, may not unfitly be applied to every individual who, in the course of Providence, is

called to act a part in the World, whether it be a political, Ecclesiastical, Military, or even in private life. A certain degree of good Fortune is necessary to constitute an Hero: If his plans are laid ever so judicious, and executed with ever so much bravery, Yet, if he is unsuccessful, his conduct is but too often condemned; while on the other hand, a Man totally unacquainted with the Theory of War, whose plans are founded in ignorance, and executed without discretion; if he succeeds, his Military exploits are generally extolled to the highest pitch. Even so in private life; let a Mans plans of Business, his calculations and his conduct, be ever so prudent; if he proves unsuccessful, his conduct is exploded, and his character too often emolated on the alter of Malice and ill-will: While the Man who has no fixed System of Business, and conducts it in the most careless manner, if he acquires Property, he seldom fails to meet the plaudits of the World. Such are the opinions founded merely on prosperous or

adverse Fortune, without attending to the merits or de-merits of the Persons concerned.

I am led to those remarks by a consideration of my own particular case. It is certainly a very delicate matter for a Man to speak of himself: when he attempts to do it, he ought to be extremely modest. There are, however, occasions when it may not only be proper, but when in fact it becomes a duty he owes to his own character and feelings; a duty from which no false delicacy should deter him, and from which he cannot be absolved without the reflection of having committed a species of Suicide. on those principles, therefore, I conceive I shall be justified in adverting to those transactions which have tended to involve me, and the consequences that have resulted.

By the voluntary suffrages of the Citizens of this Town, I was, twelve Years since, introduced into Public life; in which period I passed through as many Offices as any one Man ever did, and performed as great a

quantity of Business as, I presume, was ever performed in the same Space of Time. How all this business was executed would not be proper, perhaps, for me to say: But if the Public records, successive re-elections, and repeated marks of approbation, confidence and esteem, can at this Time be considered as evidence, I may venture to conclude them replete with Testimonials in my favour. But alas! however upright and disinterested, (making due allowance for the frailties of Human nature, and those errors which too often take place in consequence, which it is every Mans duty to acknowledge and lament,) the general tenor of my conduct may have been, I have to lament, that the Misfortunes which have resulted in consequence of my attention to the common weal, have effaced all the merit I ever acquired.

It must be obvious to every Gentleman who has been acquainted with the State of the Public in Years past, that the Business was arduous, and that

that the exigencies of the Government have been such, that the pay annexed to Office has been barely sufficient to defray the necessary extra charges of attending to it: I may, therefore, modestly conclude, that a great proportion of my Time for twelve Years, has been devoted to the Service of this Town in particular, and the Community in general, without Fee or Reward. added to this, I have irrecoverably lost at least £1,000. by bad Debts, and about £7,000, more by Misfortune, independant of the Sums I have been and am still liable to be called upon for, for being responsible for others in whom I mis-placed a confidence. These are the Circumstances of my present situation: Had my Property been wasted by Habits of Vice, Riot or Intemperance, it would have been known, and there would not be wanting those who would have dessiminated it; but this, so far as I have been acquainted with what has been said, has never been pretended. The Fact is, I have lived decently and in character; and I considered

dered it my duty so to do. Had I done otherwise I might have been chargeable with Parsimony, which every liberal Man would have condemned as dishonorable.

Notwithstanding all the Misfortunes I have met with, I thank God! I feel a disposition still to exert the Talents I am blessed with, for the benefit of those in whose happiness I cannot but feel deeply interested, and those to whom I am obligated. Is it possible for a Man to discover a better? Does Divine or Human Laws require more? Indeed, can it be any benefit or satisfaction to any one to keep me longer in a state of Suspence and Inactivity? Let reason, Justice and common Sense determine.

I address you, because I consider you the principal Agent for those who are more immediately Interested in my present situation and future pursuits. I have never once imbibed the idea that you have a disposition to pursue and Persicute me from personal ill-will or any other unworthy principle what

whatever: You undoubtedly feel infinitely superior to such contemptable drudgery. I must suppose, therefore, that some latent principle operates to deter you from the interference I requested in my letter of the 23th ult; what this is I cannot analize. But I must confess, I hoped from the opinion I entertained of your candour, that I should have been favoured with your sentiments in writing upon the subject, that I might have had an opportunity of, either assenting to them, or shewing their falacy.

These are the sentiments that have occured to me on contemplating on the scenes through which I have passed, and the events that have resulted in consiquence. They are plain and intelligible. I submit them to your consideration, and, through you, to those who I know feel a degree of concern on the occasion. Should any of the Facts be doubted, I am ready to exhibit the most substantial Testimony of their reality. Should any one be disposed to refute the

remarks made upon them, I will attend to such objections as they may think proper to adduce with candor, and defend my own with modesty and decency.

I am, Sir, Your real Friend,
and Obt Servant

Sto Clarke

May 31. 1793.

Joseph Ruggles Esqr

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to your request, I have drawn Messrs Hunt & Ward's account, but have made no entry in the Book for reasons obvious. Mr Gay is undetermined whether it will be expedient, by this opportunity, to forward the ballance; I have therefore omitted the letter untill this is known. You observe by Clarke & Gay's Books there is a ballance due from Van Dyk, Van Eyck & Cockcroft of £7.2.6 New York currency or

or £5.. 6.. 10 ½ Lawful Money. I submit to your consideration the propriety of preparing a Draft (dated at or about the time of the receipt of their last Letter) in their name for it. It may perhaps accommodate Mr Richards and yourself. You will have the goodness to let me know your opinion upon the subject. By looking over the Book I have contemplated how much it would have spared you trouble, and expence to the Creditors if I had had the settlement of many of the accounts in it, being, by experience, as competent, perhaps, as a stranger; but as the Gentlemen have judged otherwise I acquiesce in it cheerfully. The scenes through which we have passed are still recent in my mind. The reciprocal affection that has subsisted cannot be forgotten by Your old Friend.

S. Clarke

Roxbury 1. June 1793

Hon^ble Samuel A Otis Esqr

Dear Sir,

The Scenes through which we have passed in Years past; and that Friendship which has long subsisted in consequence, emboldens me to address you on the present occasion. Twelve Years since I was, by the voluntary Suffrages of the Citizens of this Town, introduced into Public life; during which period I have passed through almost every Office in the gift of the Town: and in which the principal events took place that have tended to point out the expediency, I may say, the necessity, of adopting that System of Civil Government, the salutary effects of which are generally felt and acknowledged throughout the United States: a System that at once embraces all those objects requisite to cement the various Interests and views of this extensive Republic; to promote and secure the Peace, Liberty and Happiness of the Body Politic, and the Rights of every individual in it; and which, is at once the admiration and the envy of the World. But

But whatever Satisfaction I derive from a retrospective view of Past events, and the consiquences that have resulted, I cannot claim any considerable share of merit from the part I have been called to act in the Subordinate Stations I have filled, although I have endeavoured on all occasions to fulfill the Duties of them, according to the best of my abilities and understanding. But, Sir, I feel an heartfelt pleasure when I consider that Several of my most valued Friends, who, I know, contributed all in their power towards the accomplishment of the important event of which I have been speaking, as a proper reward of their indefatigable exertions, are amply provided for in Several Departments of the Federal Government, Who fill those Offices with ability and Integrity, that reflects Honor on themselves; and to the Public benefit and advantage.

During the period to which I have alluded, a great proportion of my Time was devoted to the discharge of the Duties devolved on me; and, in consiquence of the exegencies of the Government, the pay annexed to Office was barely Sufficient to discharge the necessary and unavoidable extra

expences of attending to it; of course therefore, the Time thus absorbed was a voluntary offering without Fee or Reward, for the benefit of the community.

While I have been thus attending to the Public, my own private concerns have been neglected in proportion. In addition to the Sacrifice I have made of my Time, I have lost, irrecovarably, more than £1,000. by bad Debts, beside at least £700. more by a Series of untoward events. And the Misfortunes of the last Year; (in which I collected the most valuable Stock that I ever possessed, and laboured the hardest to Manufacture it;) have tended to complete my ruin: For in the midst of Business the greatest proportion of my hands were taken off to have the Small Pox; and a dread of receiving the Infection, prevented, in the only proper Season, the Sales of that property, on the Net proceeds of which I relied as a means to fulfill my engagements; and the natural and unavoidable consiquence followed: I stopt payment, relinquished the whole, and became at once destitute of every Resource, except the kind aid of my Friends, and the exertion of my best Talents in future.

You will no doubt, think this a melancholy pic-

picture; but you may be assured it is a true one: and it affects me as it would, I presume, every Man of sensibility that exists; but, I thank Heaven! I can bear it, personally, with a good degree of fortitude and resignation. But, my Friend, when I consider, that a truly virtuous Wife with seven Innocent children, are involved with me in a Catastrophe which, I believe, no Human Wisdom, Prudence or forethought could have effectually guarded against or prevented, I confess, it occasions sensations too keen for expression!

At my period of life, with a shattered constitution, I am totally unfit to undertake and pursue any hard manual Labour; and to live an Idle, useless life I should depreciate more than any event in it. I would therefore, with alacrity engage in the toils of Public Office, and participate in a moderate degree in the Emoluments of it; provided it was not a mere menial employment, and I could conduct in it with a becoming Independance of mind: But alass! I am a stranger to the road to Office, nor do I possess the insinuating address of a Chesterfield whereby to attain it. To you, my Friend, I cheerfully submit my case. Your influence, your connection

with Public business, and your acquaintance with the occurrences that are constantly taking place, will enable you to point out a thousand expedients that my limited situation and acquaintance with the World do not allow me to contemplate. Should any opening present, that I can fill with Honor and Propriety, your remembrance of me will be gratefully acknowledged; and it will be infinitely more so by an amiable Woman and seven Innocent Children. I am persuaded I have many Friends in Philadelphia, who have known my principles and conduct, both in Public and private life, for a series of years; to such, Sir, I wish my real situation to be known; and I flatter myself you will have the goodness to communicate it, and my desires in consequence of it, in such manner as you shall judge most effectual. I am, Dear Sir, with sentiments of Respect and Esteem, Your unfortunate Friend,

And Obedient Servant

Jno Clarke

June 1. 1793. Wrote Mr H Sharpnack relative to the A Blaney's affairs.

№ 3.

Roxbury 4 June 1793

John Read Esquire

Dear Sir, I am extremely loth to divert your attention for a single moment, from the important business in which you are engaged, by again adverting to the Subject of my two Letters of the 7th & 14th ultimo, and the conversations that passed between us on the 15th. But I rely on Your candour that my peculiar situation will apologize for it. In the first of those Letters I stated, as I trust, with candour and modesty, my reasons why I am convinced, that the Demand you hold against me (dated the 30th of March 1785), ought to be extinguished for a very moderate consideration, if any at all.„ and in the subsequent Letter I endeavoured to enforce those reasons, by firm, decent, and manly arguments, fairly deducible, as I conceive, from a candid review of that transaction. In the conversation that took place on the next Day, you was pleased to advert to the circumstances attending the purchase of the Wool, on the 28th Day of September 1777, and to say, that you conceived I had the advantage of you in the adjustment which took place on the 19 Day of January 1781.„ In this, however, I humbly conceive you are mistaken; for at the Time

we had a free and candid conversation upon the subject, in which the quantity, quality, and indeed every circumstance relative to the Wool was considered; and the payments made by others in similar circumstances, in depreciated paper Money, and the advantages they had thereby gained, while I had reluctated at the idea of discharging myself with it, when the depreciation exceeded all reasonable calculation, was taken into view: and upon the whole it was mutually agreed, that the 1Lp. was a just and reasonable Sum then due, and I gave you my Note accordingly, ~~which~~ with which I (then supposed, (and I have seen no reason since to alter my opinion) you was well satisfied. For the ballance due on this Note only, the Obligation in question was given: and I am persuaded it will be abundantly evident, by the * calculations I have annexed in the margin, which I have made from the original Note & other Documents in my possession, that a palpable error (to speak modestly) was made at the time; that instead of £162.15.1½, only £123.5.10¾, was actually due. That on the 6 Day of August 1787 (by calculations made from the same erroneous principles) instead of £98.0.7½ (as noted on the Bond to be then due) there was no more than

£41.. 13.. 4 3/4. a difference of no less than £56.. 7.. 2 3/4.

How all this has happened it is not my present design to point out; nor am I by any means disposed to be captious on the subject: Indeed, if I was able, I would pay the whole without a murmur.

But, my Friend, you know my true situation; and you also know the principal events that have tended to reduce me to it. I thank God! however, that I possess a good flow of animal spirits, that would enable me to enter on a new scene of Business with alacrity; but it is impossible for me to avail myself of the aid I need for that purpose, while I am closed and held in duress. I must therefore, of consequence, be deprived of the means of subsistance untill I can effect an accommodation on proper principles. You will pardon me, I trust, for the concern I discover on the occasion; and for the liberty I take in bringing this subject again into view. I am, Sir, Your unfortunate Friend & Obt Servt

Tho Clarke

* Principal of my Note January 19. 1781		£140.. 0.. 0
Interest of do to December 28. 1781		7.. 18: 8
		£147.. 18: 8
Deduct Payment December 28. 1781		8.. 8.. 0
		£139.. 10.. 8
Interest to November 30. 1782		7.. 12: 5
		£147.. 3.. 1
Deduct payment November 30. 1782		39.. 0.. 0
		£108.. 3.. 1
Interest to March 30. 1785		15.. 2: 9 3/4
		£123: 5: 10 3/4
Interest to August 6. 1787		8.. 12: 2 1/2
		£131.. 18.. 1 1/2
Deduct Mr Evans's Bond assigned August 6. 1787	£81.. 13: 2 1/2	
also my Aunt discharged	8.. 11.. 6	
		90.. 4.. 8 1/2
		£41.. 13: 4 3/4
Interest to April 30. 1790		6.. 10.. 0 1/2
		£48.. 3.. 5 1/4
Deduct for payment by discharge of my Acct April 30. 1790		9.. 7.. 1
		£38.. 16.. 4 1/4

The reasons for calculating the Interest to the periods above stated will be obvious, it is presumed, without a particular elucidation. If any errors have escaped me, I shall stand corrected by your superior abilities with pleasure. Tho Clarke

June 6. 1793.

Joseph Ruggles Esqr.

Dear Sir, Since the last evening I have seriously revolved in my mind the EVENTS that took place yesterday, and the secret and most private measures that were adopted on the 12 & 13 of February last, which that disclosed. And, as I ~~should~~ said to you personally and now repeat, I scorn to conceive in my mind what my lips hesitates to utter, let it affect whom it may. I shall therefore beg leave to submit a concise view of circumstances that have taken place to your serious consideration. This Day completes 28 Years, 1 Month & 2 Days since our first acquaintance commenced; during which period, I have on all occasions manifested the warmest attachment, esteem and regard for your Person and character, and from a careful recollection, I am not conscious of ever having, knowingly, injured either You or Yours so much as in my thoughts.

About half of that time we have lived in uncommon habits of Friendship and confidence, and in which I have never hesitated to impart to You without reserve, every circumstance relative to myself, my hopes, fears

fears, pursuits and prospects. After recounting these agreeable scenes, I have endeavoured, (I hope, with a spirit of candour and Charity,) to reconcile to my own feelings the events that have taken place. — I have enquired: Is it possible that an Intimate and confidential Friend could consult and point out the means whereby a loan which he knew was necessary to my very existance as a man of business, might be obtained, the security to be pledged for it, & he made acquainted with the whole negotiation, when he knew that on the day immediately preceding, he had through the medium of his own Brother, directed a prior attachment to be made on the same Property to the full amount of its value? This you are now pleased to avow, and to tell me "You did it secretly, and hoped there would be no occasion for its being known. That You had relinquished your own Debt, (in consideration, however, of your receiving the personal property,) "but that due to your Uncle's Estate you thought yourself bound in duty to retain, it being a matter of Trust; and that, as the Property was sufficient to cover it, it could do no harm", and was pleased to add,

"It could be no deception in you if you did not know it." I have uniformly said that this was a Just Debt, and ought to be honorably paid, and you know it was with one a Pri: -mary object.

You are sensible Sir, that I could not well avoid knowing Your situation at this particular Time; and I also felt that You must unavoidably experience great Trouble and Inconvenience in conse: -quence of the Catastrophe which awaited Clarke & Gay; and God knows I lamented it to my Soul! But I am truly happy that your Resources were at hand, and that you sur: -vived the shock honorably.

Having adverted to this Event you will pardon me I trust, if I mention a few circum: -stances that have affected me extremely, which I wished, however, to conceal. When I closed my doors all the Cash I had on hand did not exceed 13/- I kept close, principally for the benefit of Clarke & Gay's Creditors, from the evening of the 11th to the 28 Day of March (17 Days); One Dollar I gave to one of the young Men to induce him to stand by to protect the Property, and the remainder was soon expended

for necessaries for the Family: and Mrs Clarke, in order to procure Milk for her Inocent chil: -dren, even offered her Buckells out of her Shoes to pay for it: Mrs Buggles, however, and I speak it to her Honour, was too magnanimous to accept them. Tho I honorably surrendered the whole Property, unconditionally as it respected myself, I was allowed only a pittance of two Dollars, and, if I remember right, have since received two quarters of veal to subsist upon, perhaps, for Months. The Money was immediately applied to the payment of the Milk Score, and for Days together I had not a single Shilling to resort to though I had Several urgent occasions.

Whether your conduct and opinions, by first attaching my Property, then advising me to mortgage it to a Friend, were orginally intended to injure me, is known only to God and your own conscience; but that it gave rise to all those whispers that took place prior to, and was in fact the cause of the melancholy event that ensued, and that Scene of unmerited Persecution which me and my Fa: -mily have experienced in consequence, I think is abundantly obvious. Whether in this you have acted the part of a Christian, a Friend, or a Gentleman, I will submit to any judicious

and upright mind to determine.

I am really loth to add a single remark to this statement; the very recital gives me pain. But I cannot forbear submitting whether there ever was a Man, who has supported any character in life, and became unfortunate, in a Country which is justly celebrated for Humanity & Benevolence; and who, through life, Never could be happier than when it was in his power to render any acceptable Service to others, that has in some instances met with more unkind treatment, and abuse, than I have? As to yourself, Sir, it is impossible for you to be happier than I wish you to be. And I am most sincerely what I always have been, Your real Friend

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 7. June 1793.

Rev'd Mr William Emmerson

Dear Sir,

You have laid me under great obligations by complying with my request relative to my Son Thomas. I have always considered my children as the gifts of, and so many Trusts reposed in me by a kind and good Providence and a proper attention to their Education has been with me a primary and immediate object. Indeed, I have viewed private Families as so many little rivulets which, when united, compose the great fountain of the Community, and it is from those small Springs that flow those valuable plants which tend to increase the knowledge, dessiminate the Virtues, and establish those principles so essentially necessary to the good order and well-being of Society. To Parents and Instructors therefore, the Public are indebted for their most useful and valuable members. These sentiments, Sir, have uniformly impressed my mind, and influenced my conduct towards my little Family: And Misfortune, of

which I have certainly experienced a large share, so far from diminishing my ardour in the same pursuit, has tended, on the contrary, to stimulate me to greater exertions that my children may attain that which I consider more valuable to them than Worldly wealth, or even Crowns or Diadems.

Had you not been pleased to request it, I should not have troubled you with one idea relative to my plan of Thomas's Education, as, after mentioning my views relative to his future pursuits, I should have rested perfectly satisfied with your exercising your superior Judgment. The plan I wish to be adopted is plain and concise. Reading English only; Speaking with propriety, modesty and a suitable degree of Firmness; Writing a plain and intelligible hand; Arithmatick in all its most useful branches; and, if convenient, the principles of Book keeping, comprise the whole of it.

Thomas's constitution has always been feeble, and although it may acquire a greater degree of firmness by age, yet

I am apprehensive it will be too delicate to admit of his pursuing a course of hard manual Labour: I am therefore desirous he may be qualified to attend a Store or Shop, and keep the Accounts requisite to such an employment.

Mrs Clarke is preparing his Clothing and the little conveniencies he will have occasion for. When these are completed, I propose, if possible, to have the pleasure of waiting on You with him in Person; but if this should be impracticable, I shall embrace the first opportunity to send him on to Harvard. This Letter will be handed to You, it is probable, by Major Kimball, by whom I shall hope to be honored with a line from You in answer. I am, Rev'd & Dear Sir, with lively sentiments of Esteem & respect, Your Obt. Hble Servt.

Tho. Clarke

June 10. 1793

Joseph Ruggles Esqr

Dear Sir, The foregoing* letter, it may be discerned, was dictated by the feelings which I experienced at the time, at which I presume, the Heart of insensibility itself would revolt. For fear, however, any thing had escaped me that might occasion any degree of concern in future, I laid it by for re-perusal, and a more serious consideration. This has employed my attention, and most candid consideration. and I shall only beg leave to add a few words to elucidate one or two passages in it.

The Debt due to the Family of your late much esteemed uncle, I certainly had every motive that a true regard for his Memory, and Esteem for those who survive him, (from whom I and my Family have experienced every kind attention,) could inspire, to wish should be honorably paid. Were it not therefore for the private manner in which the attachment was made, which, I conceive, was totally unnecessary between you and me, as you might with the greatest safety have avowed your real sentiments: I should never have mentioned it in the manner I have, though I confess, I have almost been ready to doubt whether, all things considered, it can be viewed as perfectly right: But, Sir, the other attachment wounds me to the Heart: For you know with what reluctance I applied to my Friend for a Loan of Money; and, you cannot

*See Folio 53. dated June 6. 1793.

but be sensible, that if any Unfortunate Sacrifice of Property had taken place, this property must have been Jeapounded, if not totally lost: the unavoidable consequence of which might have been, a total breach of Family Friendship for ever. (I know, Sir, and I feel, that you are a sufferer; and should it ever be in my power, I shall with great cheerfulness make you ample amends.) For however Innocent Clarke & Gay really were, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for them to have proved it, to the satisfaction of Mr. Alexander; and I submit to you whether the natural inference would not have been, that they were accessary to the wrong, had it taken place; and I certainly have a right to conclude it would, had you unfortunately been taken away, or any serious misfortune happened.

As to myself I can truly assert, I believe no man has valued himself more upon the Friendship & good understanding that has uninterruptedly subsisted among my Neighbours; and I feel a consciousness that no one has just reason to suspect mine. I hope and firmly believe, the period will arrive when I shall have it in my power to give them the most convincing proofs of it. But this must subside untill the measure of that Barbarous, Ungrateful, unmanly, and (I trust) unmerited System of Persecution, that ill-natured, unpolitic, Counsel has dictated, and advice, is at an end. When this will be, God only knows! but I am determined, in all events, to await it with Fortitude.

I am, Sir, your real Friend

Jno. Clarke

Roxbury 10 June 1793.

John Read Esqr.

Dear Sir, As You have been pleased to signify to me Your desire that I should State my wishes relative to my Obligation in Your profession, of the 30 of March 1785, I conceive it will not be disagreeable if I take a short view of the Events that have tended to depress me, and finally brought on the Catastrophe I have recently experienced.

Twelve Years since I was, by the voluntary Suffrages of the Citizens of this Town, introduced into Public life, during which period, I served one Year as a Collector, ten Years as a Selectman and Assessor, seven Years as Town Clerk, seven Years as a Representative, beside the Offices of Overseer of the Poor, Parish Clerk & Assessor; all which necessarily absorbed a great proportion of my Time, and unavoidably occasioned an extra expence in full proportion to the pay annexed to them. Indeed, whoever will take a retrospective view of the State of the Public, and the exigencies of the Government, Through the greater part of

those Years, will, I am persuaded, be convinced that I have devoted that proportion of my Time to the Service of the Community with out FEE or REWARD. In addition to this Sacrifice of the prime of my life and usefulness I have irrecoverably lost more than £1,000. by bad Debts, beside more than £700. more by a Series of Misfortunes which, I trust, no human Wisdom, Foresight or Prudence could have effectually guarded against or prevented! and in the course of the last Year, though I collected a very valuable Stock, and, in conjunction with my Friend McGay, laboured to the utmost of my ability to manufacture it in the best manner, Yet, such were the untoward events that took place that, from the first Day of September to the first Day of January, (tho' we made every possible exertion in our power) we could not vend a quantity sufficient to defray the charge of Supporting our Families; in consequence of which I could not support my Credit, for the term

and to the amount necessary to retrieve the Misfortune. We judged it expedient therefore to come to a stand and make the best adjustment we were enabled to with our Creditors. This, my Friend, is a concise, and a true State of the case. and, in consequence of it, I am left, with a truly amiable Wife and seven Innocent children, who are extremely Dear to me, without one shilling to resort to; and rely wholly on the kind aid of my Friends, and the exertion of my best Talents for their future support!

From this representation, Sir, You and every Gentleman of sensibility will Judge whether it will be in my power, (having long since passed the meridian of life) ever completely to exonorate myself of Debts. And here, Sir, may I be allowed to observe that the Debt in question, though I have made every effort to extinguish it, is one of the most unfortunate that stand against me: For at the first setting out, by unavoidable

Misfortune, I lost every pound of the wool for which I became obligated! notwithstanding which, I have made several handsome payments, to amount of £ 146..19..9½.

Deplorable, Sir, as my situation may appear, Yet I derive a consolation from reflecting, that I cannot accuse myself of Idleness, Intemperance, Gaming, or any other vicious practice whatever.

considering therefore the sources of my misfortunes on the one hand, and the exertions I have made to extinguish the Demand in question, on the other, I humbly presume, I shall be justified in requesting, that I may be completely exonorated of any further Demand in consequence of it. I chearfully submit it to your candid consideration, and through you, to the amiable Lady & Gentleman interested in it. It will be an act of magnanimity worthy of you and them. It will in a degree, free my mind from embarrassment; and it will increase the Obligations and excite the Gratitude of a truly Virtuous and Inoffensive Family. I am, Sir, with sentiments of Esteem & regard, Your unfortunate Friend & obedient Servant

Silas Clarke

Roxbury 11 June 1793.

Hon^ble James Bowdoin Esq^r

Dear Sir, I feel myself under great Obligations to You, for Your kind and polite attention to the representation and request I had the Honor of making yesterday through the medium of my good Friend John Read Esq^r by agreeing at once to relinquish Your proportion of a considerable Demand. A conduct, Sir, thus disinterested and magnanimous, as it justly merits, so it excites in my mind, and in the minds of my Family, the warmest sentiments of Gratitude.

Agreeable to your request, I annex in the margin a Statement of the several Payments I have made either in Solid Coin or Articles equivolent. Whether I made any or what payments in Paper Money I am now unable to say, nor do I conceive it very material on the present occasion.

Permit me, Sir, to offer You my hearty congratulations on Your advancement

to a Seat in the first branch of the Legislature, a Station, Sir, which your abilities, your Independance of mind, your Fortune and rank in Society, will enable you to fill with true Dignity and Honour. That you may long enjoy the confidence of your Fellow Citizens, and continue to be useful in the several Stations to which their free and unbiassed Suffrages may call you: That, in imitation of your late Honorable and highly respected Father, your life may be filled with Honour, and you experience that affection and Esteem which is due alone to distinguished merit, is the wish of him who is, with grateful Sentiments of Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your Obl^d Hble Servt.

Tho. Clarke

For Statement, See Folio 2. of this Book.

June 12. 1793.

Mr Nathaniel Sparhawk

Dear Sir,

I propose carrying my Son Thomas to the Revd Mr Emmerson at Harvard, on Saturday next, in order to complete that portion of a common Education which Duty and inclination prompt me to give him prior to his commencing his apprenticeship.

For this purpose I am obliged to be at some expence to enable him to appear with becoming decency: and such have been the untoward events I have recently experienced, I have scarcly been able to avail myself of Cash requisite to the immediate Support of my Family. This consideration, I am persuaded, will apologize for my requesting, that you will be so obliging to favour me with the amount of the Trifles I sent you a few days since. I am totally unacquainted with the value of those articles; such as they had become but of little importance

to me, I wish only a very moderate consideration for them.

I intend as soon as circumstances will permit, to engage in Business either in Boston or elsewhere, in which case my place here will be to be Leased, perhaps, for a number of Years: and as I know it will accomodate you, and I am desirous of giving you the preference, I mention it for your consideration; Though, if there should be no necessity for it, I do not wish the information at present to be communicated from me. I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

P.S. If you have occasion to send any thing to your Son, I will carry it with pleasure.

Roxbury 13 June 1793.

Hon.ble Ebenezer Thayer Junr Esquire

Dear Sir, I am greatly obliged by your kind remembrance of your old Friend, when contemplating who would be proper Persons to fill the Jeveral Offices which will be requisite in the County of Norfolk. You are Jensible, my Dear Sir, that I never have thought Life been considered an Office Seeker; and I assure you that, although an Office that I could discharge the Duties of to general acceptation (as I humbly presume I could that of Register of Probate) would be very salutary to me and my Family, yet a Jentiment I have long Jince imbibed recurs to me with full force upon the present occasion, "That if a Man's Talents and Merit will not recommend him he has no claim to Preferment either in Church or State." It is a Truth well known, that I have uniformly, and from principle, opposed the erecting a New County; and I could not avoid it without doing violence to my own Jentiments and opinions upon that Jubject: and, Heaven

forbid! that I should ever give up that independance of mind which I consider as indispensibly requisite to every Gentleman in a Public Station. But as the event has taken place, I flatter myself that no opposition of mine to a measure which I thought injudicious at the time, will, in the minds of liberal Gentlemen, be permitted to operate to my prejudice, especially if they shall be Jatisfied that I shall be able to discharge the duties of it with ability and fidelity. Indeed, Sir, notwithstanding the misfortune which has recently attended me; notwithstanding my utter inability, by reason of weakness of Body, to pursue any Business that requires hard manual Labour; and notwithstanding that a truly virtuous Wife, and seven Innocent children, all of whom are extremely dear to me, are absolutely dependant on my exertions in the Jphere in which Providence Shall Jee fit to place me, Yet, I would on no account, interfere with or intercept any other Gentleman whom the Supreme Executive Shall

shall judge better quatified to fill this or any other office than I am. and I most chearfully submit myself to the Judgment and opinion of those Gentlemen, to whom my Publick & private conduct has been known for a series of years.

I am Dear Sir,
with grateful Sentiments of Esteem,
Your Obedient Humble Servt
Tho Clarke

Saturday June 15. 1793. carried my Son Thomas to the Revd William Emerson at Harvard, where I spent the Sabbath and returned on Monday the 17 Day of June. Paid Mr Emerson £3. towards Thomas's Board and Instruction. He lives in the Family of Madam Grosvenor, Widow of the late Revd Ebenezer Grosvenor of that place, where I am sure he will experience every kind attention.

Roxbury 18 June 1793

My Dear Son,

It is with great satisfaction that I see you placed in the Family of Madam Grosvenor, & under the Tuition of my much Esteemed Friend, the Revd Mr Emerson; to whom, I am perswaded, you will be carefull to pay the most Dutiful and respectful attention on all occasions; nor will you omit to treat the Ladies, your young Friend and associate Sparhawk, and every Member of that amiable Family with the utmost respect in your power. In this way you will not fail to gain their affection & Esteem; and you in your turn may expect to derive the most substantial benefits. My views in carrying you to Harvard were, that you might be, in a degree secluded from the Noise & interruptions of the World, & enjoy the important advantages of pursuing your studies, & making improvments in useful literature under one of the ablest Masters I am acquainted with.

These benefits, my Son, I am sure you may experience if you are Industrious and attentive to your Duty, and regard your true Interest. and, as the promotion of your welfare & prosperity has always been my ultimate aim, I am assured you will carefully attend to all the communications I may think proper to make upon that subject, recollecting it is your and not my Interest alone will prompt me to it. When you write to me (which I hope you will

will do frequently. I hope you will be very careful to mention every person in the family by name; & that you will mention your Uncle & aunt Alexander, & all your other Friends who you know feel interested in your welfare, in the most respectful terms.

You will be careful to present my respectful compliments to your Reed preceptor, to Madam Grosvenor, the Young Ladies & your Young Friend Sparhawk, & tell them how much pleasure I took in their Society when I had the pleasure of seeing them at Harvard. I purpose, if possible, to forward your Books & other necessaries herewith; but if this should be impracticable, I shall embrace the first occasion of doing it. I found your little Brother Charles very much indisposed, but am happy in being able to tell you, that he appears to be much better. Your Mama, and your other Brothers & Sisters enjoy a good measure of Health. That you do now, & may long enjoy this greatest Earthly blessing, is my ardent wish. The whole Family desire their Love to you, and you will accept the same from,

Your affectionate Parent

Tho Clarke

Master Thomas Clarke Junr, Harvard.

Roxbury 18 June 1793.

Madam Grosvenor - Harvard.

The very kind and polite reception & attentions I experienced in your Family, merits my warmest acknowledgments. I hope the conduct and behaviour of my little Son will be such as to meet your approbation, and in some measure to merit those marks of your Esteem which, I am sure he will experience. Permit me, Madam, with the Young Ladies in your Family, to request Your and their acceptance of the Gloves which accompany this, as a small Testimony of that Esteem & regard with which I am, Madam,

Your Obt Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 18 June 1793.

Revd William Emerson

Dear Sir, I return you many Thanks for your very kind and polite attention to me, while I had the pleasure of enjoying your Society at Harvard: and I am greatly obliged to Madam Grosvenor and the amiable Ladies of her Family, for their polite and engaging attention to me and my Son upon the same occasion. I found, Sir, in your "Rural retreat" all those charms I had been led to anticipate from your representation of it. A retreat thus remote from the Noise and interruptions of the World, in which the Mind must be disincumbered of the cares and embarrassments incident to it, cannot fail to afford full Scope to contemplation, and to occasion a continual repast to which the busy Worldlings are total Strangers. Added to all this, my Dear Sir, you appear to enjoy the affections & Esteem of an enlightened, well disposed and Industrious People. All these agreeable circumstances combining, I think, cannot fail to render the benefit reciprocal to both you and them. You enjoying their Love, and they and their benefiting by your studious researches into the Doctrines of one of the most Benevolent

Systems which was ever revealed from Heaven! and receiving those Precepts, and beholding that Example, exhibited in your Life & conversation, which never fails to make a rational Religion appear truly amiable. That You may long continue to be useful, and to enjoy that confidence and esteem which is due alone to distinguished merit, is the fervent wish of,

Dear Sir, Your affectionate Friend,
and Obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

P.S. Thomas appeared to entertain a wish to make us a visit the ensuing Commencement week. I did not then oppose his inclination, nor encourage it, but referred him wholly to his Preceptor; You will therefore, my good Friend, have the goodness to direct in this as well as every thing that concerns him, as You shall judge proper.

Roxbury 19 June 1793.

To
Joseph Ruggles Esqr.
Mr Elisha Whitney
Mr Samuel Wait
Mr Benjamin Dwight &
Deacon David Weld.

Assignees of the Stock & Credits of the late Company of Clarke & Gay.

Gentlemen, Permit us to address you on a Subject of serious importance to us, and to solicit your candid attention to the Facts & Reasoning we have to adduce on the present occasion. The events that tended to excite a Jealousy relative to our joint or Separate ability to discharge our Just Debts, are generally known. It may not, however, be deemed improper to advert to them, in order to introduce the real Subject of this communication.

In the course of the year 1792. We exerted ourselves to obtain a large capital; to employ a competant number of hands, and to extend our Business in its several branches to the utmost of our ability. - For this purpose we omitted nothing within our Scheme of Talent, to acquire, to Manufacture, and to vend the Property. We succeeded in the first completely; in the second, (though deprived of a great proportion of our most useful hands by an act of Providence)

we trust it will be obvious, no effort or Labour was wanting on our part; indeed the state of the Stock, when delivered to you, proves we must have been uniformly Industrious & attentive to it: but in the last, notwithstanding every exertion, from the first Day of September to the last Day of December, a period of four Months, and almost the only one in the whole compass of the Year in which the heavy part of the Stock can be vended to advantage, we was unable to make Sale of a sufficient quantity to defray the necessary and daily expence of supporting our Families, and purchasing the requisite materials for completing the Stock. We was therefore, under the disagreeable necessity of availing ourselves of a Credit far beyond anything we had contemplated, and of endeavouring to extend it to a period beyond what we should otherwise have judged consistant with the rules of Prudence. In this, however, we succeeded equal to our most sanguine expectations untill the unfortunate 14th of February 1793, when, in compliance with the recommendation of a very particular Friend, we Mortgaged our Real Estates as a collateral

Security for a loan. This event at once tended to excite that degree of Jealousy and Suspecian that took place, (one instance only excepted), immedi: -ately subsequent to it, and to bring on the Catas -trophe we experienced in consequence.

When we see that our fate was determin -ed on, we took every precaution in our power to prevent a Sacrifice of the Property, in which we happily succeeded: And, in the most Public manner communicated our real situation, (in the Continent of March 16th & the Independent Chronicle of the 21st following,) with the untoward events that had occasioned it. We accordingly prepared as accurate a Statement of all our concerns as possible, and submited it to the consideration of all our Creditors, who, with a genevine Spirit of magnanimity & Disinter: -estedness, were pleased to accept our whole Stock in Trade, and our Credits of every discrip -tion, and to grant us a complete discharge, "of and from all Demands in future," in which is included the following comprehensive expressions, "that if said Creditors shall not come in, that we will retain such part or proportion of their respective Debts, for

the use and benefit of the said Clarke & Gay, in case the said Clarke & Gay shall be compelled to pay the same." - This part of the agreement, Gentlemen, was obviously intended to provide, in a due proportion, for the Demands of such Creditors as could not see their way clear to come in upon the same principles as those; and it applies particularly to the case of Mr Jacob Davis, who would undoubtedly chearfully comply, if there were no collateral obsta -cles in his way, but who has thought proper to call on us in the strongest manner for pay -ment. We are not insensible that there have been objections to this Creditors, or rather our, receiving a proportional part of the Property, to the Demand, but we conceive we cannot Judge of the Justice or propriety of them, it being as real a bona fida Debt as any we had against us; and for the payment of which (though we have given up every shilling we possessed into your hands), we now stand jointly & severally responsible. If it be said that we have given him an additional Security, we would ask, what has this to do with the case in question? It by no means affects you in the smallest degree; nor does it militate with

your Agreement: On the contrary, his Demand of £198.18.3½, is explicitly stated by us in our Schedule exhibited to You, and the same is completely recognized by You in the same discharge. And you will have the goodness to recollect, that on the same 26th Day of March that this Business was closed, a Letter was addressed to a Committee of the Creditors, by Thomas Clarke, suggesting the propriety and urging the Justice of his private Creditors coming in for a proportion of the Property then in the possession of Clarke & Gay, to which you immediately replied, "that his private Creditors are not in Honour or Justice entitled to any Share or dividend in the Company's Stock; nor can they consent to his wishes in that respect." An opinion & declaration thus explicit and decided, one would suppose, would on your part, at once preclude all disputation upon the Subject.

Circumstanced as this Demand is we are desirous of availing ourselves of the proportion of the Property, so far as it will go towards extinguishing the Demand

Mr Davis holds against us, and as it will spare the expence of making the Sales, and of course so far enrich the Capital, we presume there can be no reasonable objection to it. If We trust in your candour and Justice, Gentlemen, that this application, found=ed as we conceive it to be, in reason and equity, will meet your approbation & cheerful acquiescence.

We are, Gentlemen, with all due Reg=ect your Obedient Servants

Signed Tho. Clarke
Joel Gay

The Original Letter of which the foregoing is a Copy, was delivered to Joseph Ruggles Esquire, on the Evening of the Day on which it was wrote, or on the Evening of 20 June.

Roxbury 25 June 1793.

My Dear Son,

In my Letter of the 18th instant I gave you my reasons for placing you at Harvard, and pointed out the rule of conduct I wished you to adopt. In this, I fondly hope, I shall find you uniformly consistant, and attentive: For you may be assured, there is no one thing that tends more effectually to gain the Love and Esteem of those around us, than a modest, Decent and Dutiful behaviour, especially in a Youth. To this, my Son, you will allow me to hope, that you will be constant and unwearied in Your endeavours to cultivate and improve your mind, and store it with useful idea's. I am far from wishing to give you what is generally understood by a genteel Education; but I am desirous of giving you what I consider more important to you, a Plain and Decent one, that will qualify you for the employment I propose you shall pursue in future life: Reading, Writing a good plain hand, Speaking with propriety, Arithmatick in its most useful branches, and Bookkeeping. If you are so fortunate as to become a proficient in these, (and I am sure you will endeavour to,)

you cannot fail of obtaining sufficient employment, and of appearing with Respectability and becoming Dignity in the Sphere in which Providence may see fit to place you.

My Friend Mr Sparhawk will do you and me the favour to carry your Book &c, for which you will be very careful to Thank him. As I expect your Sister Salley will write to you by this occasion, I omit saying any thing relative to the Family, having desired her to do it.

I am, Your affectionate Parent

Sho Clarke.

P.S. I have sent you Pikes Arithmatick; but the other Book recommended by the Read Mr Emerson was not out of the Press, I mean the American Edition, and I found on enquiry, that the London was much dearer; It shall however be obtained soon and sent on to You.

Roxbury 25 June 1793.

Revd William Emerson,

Dear Sir, I had the Honour of addressing you on the 18th instant, which, I doubt not has, before this, come to hand.

Our mutual Friend Mr Sparhawk proposing a tour to Harvard, affords me an opportunity for forwarding the two Books which I mentioned to you, "Burgoyne's Canada," and "Clinton & Cornwallis." You, my Friend, and every lover of genious, I think, will be pleased with the sentiments they contain. In addition to the Military traits (of which, by the way, I am a very incompetant Judge,) it appears they possessed many Noble, Dignified and Liberal idea's, as Gentlemen and Scholars, especially the former; and a native sympathy and delicacy which is directly repugnant to that ferocity naturally incident to the profession of Arms.

I had heard of them in several ways, but was unable to obtain them in this Country; I therefore imported them from London. As they contain many interesting Facts and curious anecdotes, that could not be known and analised at the period in

which they took place, I consider them no inconsiderable acquisition, and am very desirous of preserving them. If from a perusal of them, they shall appear to you equally valuable, I beg leave to request you will be pleased to retain them untill I have occasion to re-peruse them.

With the greatest Respect and Esteem,

I am, Revd & Dear Sir,

Your Obt Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3 July 1793.

William Hunt Esqr

Dear Sir, Inclosed is Robert Laffan's promissory Note left with me some time since to collect; I forward it to You for that purpose. It is the Plaintiff's desire that he should be first notified by Letter. I am, Sir, Your Obt Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3 July 1793.

Joseph Ruggles Esqr
Mr Elisha Whitney
Mr Samuel Wait
Mr Benjamin Dwick
Deacon David Weld.

Gentlemen,

The Lease I gave you of my Shop, on the fifth Day of April last, expired on the 30th ult: and as nothing has transpired from You upon ~~the~~ that Subject, I request to be informed whether it is your desire to retain or relinquish it, that I may conduct accordingly. I am, Gentlemen, with great Respect, Your obedient Hble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3 July 1793.

Mr Joseph Russell (Merchant Boston.)

Sir,

Immediately after parting with you, I had a considerable conversation with Mr Thomas Williams Junior, in which he declared on his "Honour," that he never had, directly or indirectly, circulated a report to my disadvantage, to You or any Gentleman living. As I really supposed he had done so, and am now convinced of the Contrary, I embrace the earliest occasion to disavow that charge in full confidence, however, that he will be equally candid and explicit to you upon the same Subject.

I am much obliged by the frank and candid manner in which you was pleased to communicate your objections to my being concerned in Mr Blaney's assignment: I own, however, that the objection would have been much stronger, if you had been able to adduce your Informant or Informants; If you will excuse me for remarking, that

that reports which so materially affect a mans reputation, are too delicate to gain credit from mere "transient conversation," without pretty authentick proofs of it.

For twelve Years I have devoted a very large proportion of my Time, and Talents, (such as they are) to the service of this Town in particular, and the Community in general. When the Business of the Town was first devolved on me, it was in a State of great disorder and confusion; and when I resigned it, (as I did the last Spring, into much abler hands,) it was in a State of regularity and order. Modesty forbids that I should claim the merit of this essential alteration; but this I may be allowed to say, that so far from "applying the property of the Town to my own private use," (except in a very trifling instance, and that when I had a considerable Demand for Monies actually expended for the use of it,) the Public Records, (if they can

be viewed as authentick Documents,) and the Evidence of the candid & judicious and impartial of my Fellow Citizens, are replete with Testimonials in my favour: That in fact, during the whole term of my Service I enjoyed as great a share of confidence and Esteem as ever fell to the lott of one Man; and took leave of it, in my Public capacity, with every mark of reciprocal affection. With regard to the Public at large, it may be remembered, that I served in the Legislature during one of the most difficult Periods that, perhaps, this Country ever experienced. Jealousy, Suspecion, and discord, had as it were hinged all the powers of Government, and anarchy and confusion, it was feared, would be the consequence. Through the whole of those trying Scenes, I trust, those who best know my principles and conduct, will do me the Justice to say, at least, that it was uniform & consistant.

of

of this I am confident," that I neither shrunk/ in the Field of Mars, nor on the Benches of the Legislature,, nor had Gold, that powerful stimulous to Humane efforts, any effect on my public conduct, nor indeed on my private.

I have undoubtedly commited errors both in Public and Private transactions; and where is the Man who can declare on good grounds he is perfectly free from them? Willful and corrupt ones I do not feel conscious of; I feel therefore, that when facts are known & explained: ed, I shall never be dishonoured in a mind, so fair, impartial, and upright as I believe yours to be.

Misfortune is the unavoidable lott of Human Nature; none are placed above it, though many happily escape it. That which I experience affects me as it would every Man of sensibility: I thank Heaven! I can bear it, personally, with a good degree of firmness; But, Sir, when I consider that a most Virtuous Wife with seven Innocent children, are involved with me, I own, I feel sensations too keen for expression.

You will pardon me, my Friend,

for the liberty I now take, in giving you a sketch of those scenes which have tended to bring on the Catastrophe I have recently experienced. While I faithfully served the Public, my private affairs were neglected in proportion: This has been my capital error; If, however, I have in any degree, been instrumental of promoting those measures which have tended to the establishment of a Wise, Salutary, Safe and Efficient Constitution of Civil Government, and that internal Prosperity, Peace and Tranquility which has resulted in consequence, I am far from regreting the part I have acted: For what is the fate of an individual when compared to the welfare of a Community? In my estimation, it is less than the drop of the bucket to the ocean.

I shall be very happy in an opportunity of waiting on you, at my House, for the purpose agreed on, when it shall be most convenient to You; and, I assure you that, whatever are my personal feelings on the occasion, motives of Humanity and regard for a Virtuous Family will prompt me to accede

chear-

cheerfully to your proposition. I am, Sir, with
likely sentiments of Esteem,

Your Obt & very Hble Servant

Tho Clarke

P.S. I am truely happy to be exonerated from
the trouble of collecting Mr Blaney's Debts.
and, as to the information you have received
relative to me, it is sufficient for me to say,
THAT IT IS UTTERLY FALSE and
GROUNDLESS. and when I can find out
your informant, I will tell him so to his
face. Being confident of this I shall always
treat such SLANDERS with the contempt
they deserve.

---

* On Monday the 4th Day of March last, the Town were pleased to accept my resignation of all the Offices of any considerable importance that I have held; and to Vote me their Thanks for my faithful services. as honorary a Testimony of their approbation as it was in their power to give. Does this carry with it the appearance of my having expended their Property? certainly not.

Roxbury 6 July 1793

Mr Aaron Blaney,

Sir, I have duly considered your favour of this Days date. If Mr Joseph Russell was really serious in his Objections, and is convinced that he has been imposed on; which I presume is the case, by the Message you have honoured me with from him; most certainly every principle of candour would have prompted him to have called on me, or at least, written to me himself. Until, therefore, I receive a more formal eclaircissment of his sentiments and views, I am very diffident about complying ~~with~~ with his desires. at the same time I assure You, that I would, from the purest motives, forego almost any temporal convenience, if it would tend to emancipate You, and a Family I truly respect, from a situation which I know must be extremely painful. If possible, let me see you between this & the next Monday morning a few moments upon this subject. I am, Sir, your real Friend

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 6 July. 1793.

My Dear Son,

Your Letter of the 28 ultimo was de-
:livered to me by Mr Sparhawk, who has also given
me a very favourable account of your conduct and
behaviour since you have been at Harvard. As
there is nothing that can afford me more real sat-
:isfaction, I hope & believe, that you will carefully
and uniformly pursue the same line of conduct dur
:ing the whole time you may continue in the Family
of Madam Grosvenor. This will reflect Honour on
yourself; it will recommend you to the favourable
notice of your best Friends, and every Lover of Vir
:tue; and it will occasion you the most agreeable
reflections in future life. For you may be assured,
that Vertue has charmes in it that naturally attract
the attention, and engage the affections of all who
behold it; and, as I have often told you, it is more
particularly so in a Youth! Practice it then for
your own sake, for mine, and for the sake of all
your Friends.

In Your Letter you only mention
the receipt of mine of the 27th of June; I am
therefore at a loss to conceive what has become
of mine of the 18th, for I should be loth to believe

you had forgot it. In your next you will sat-
:isfy me in it, whether it has or has not come
to hand. You also omitted to mention all the mem
:bers of the Family by name, as I recommended to
you; but as it appears you wrote in a hurry,
it apologizes for it; and I am to suppose you will
attend to it the next time you write me.

I am truly concerned that I omitted any of
your Books, and hope I shall have an opportu
:nity to forward them herewith.

Your Mama, Sally, William Pierpont, Samuel
Williams, Abigail May, Charles & little Lois, and
Polley Croxford, all join me in wishing your Health
and welfare. Be very careful to present my
respectful compliments to the Revd Mr Emerson,
Madam Grosvenor & the Young Ladies of the Family;
and remember me to my Young Friend Sparhawk

I am, my Son,
Your affectionate Parent

Tho Clarke

P.S. It is possible (though I do not think it probable)
that I shall take a Tour to Harvard Juncr to
commencement: If therefore your Preceptor
thinks proper that you shall make us a vi
:sit, (and I would have you submit it wholl
:ly to him,) he will provide the means of
conveyance, for which I have told him,
I will pay.

Roxbury 15 July 1793

Thomas Williams Junr Esqr

Sir, As I now propose to take leave of you in an epistolary way, you will have the goodness, I am perswaded, to excuse me in stating as concisely as I can, the incidents that have taken place since the commencement of our acquaintance, the consiquences that have resulted, with such remarks as I conceive are fairly deducible from them.

In the Summer of the year 1788. you began your Business of an Attorney in this Town; and under every advantage that powerful connections and ample Resources could give you. From the first of our acquaintance nothing within the compass of my power was wanting, to advance your Reputation, promote your Interest, and establish your Fame; of which, the knowledge of some of your best Friends, the quantity of Business I threw into your hands, and I may add, your own Knowledge of Facts, are sufficient Proofs. To a Gentleman of the keenest sensibility; To a Mind possessing sentiments persectly Honourable, Liberal and magnanimous, one would, suppose, a conduct thus Friendly and Disinterested, would always be recent; and that no change of circumstances could efface the mark of it: I will advert to plain and obvious Facts, and submit to the judicious

Heav'en forbid that I should wear the uncharitable or uncandid

and impartial, whether there is the least ground for the imputation on this occasion; assuring you, that nothing can give me more pleasure than to see any one of them fairly refuted, or explained in a different light than that in which I now view them.

We lived in habits of Friendship and intimacy for several Years; and on the 11th Day of July 1791. came to a settlement of the Business that had been transacted prior to that period in my Office, when it was mutually agreed that the Sum of £25. was a reasonable compensation for the trouble I had taken in it, for which You was pleased to give me your promissory Note, payable on Demand: This Note laid until the Month of June 1792, when I took the liberty, in as polite a manner as was in my power, to request payment, and in a subsequent letter, dated about fourteen days after, I renewed my request, and annexed my reasons for so doing; this produced your Letter of June 28. 1792, the contents of which did then, and have ever since, appeared to me to bear the strongest marks of an unfounded, an unreasonable, and, I trust, unmerited resentment. In order, however, to convince you, that I placed the highest confidence in your Honour and Integrity, I imme-

immediately transmitted the Note in my Letter of that date, and you had the goodness to pay me £12. in Cash, on the 18th Day of August following, which, at that time, was very Salutary and reasonable to me.

In the Autumn of the last year, I found it necessary to oppose, and from principle too, my sentiments and views to Several of my Friends, relative to the admission and progress of a Pestilential Disease; you and I happened to be opposed upon this Subject; and, I own, I did then, and still think, there was not that degree of candour and Liberality exercised that the Subject and occasion appeared to require: at all events, it was obvious you imbibed a degree of resentment which I fear has continued ever since. I thought at the time that the measure was a very injudicious one, and I should be happy had not melancholy experience evinced, that my opinions were but too well founded. The event proved highly prejudicial to a number of valuable Citizens; to me it proved Fatal. For, from the first Day of September until the last Day of December, the only time in the whole compass of the Year in which the most bulkey and valuable part of my Stock could be vended to advantage,

a Sufficient quantity was not vended to purchase indispensible necessaries for the Family, and materials for manufacturing the Stock. Thus deprived of every Resource, how was it possible for any Man to Stand, pressed as I was on all Sides?

You have been pleased to say, that in consequence of the conversations which passed between you and Major Ruggles, "you had assured him, you would not press the payment of Mrs. McCarthy's Demand further." I frankly confess, that I am at a loss in what light to view this whole transaction: I wrote you on the 13th of February, on receipt of which you was polite enough to call up to See me: Some conversation took place relative to a Mortgage for an additional loan; the terms I proposed were inadmissible, because I valued the place too high, (Since which, however, it has acquired an additional value) My friend Mr Ruggles "had, in a manner, assumed your Debt," and yet had attached for his own; and the whole transaction was kept a profound Secret from me, without making a Single comment, have, allow me only to ask; If all this was meant to be kind and Friendly to me, how much better

would it have been to have disclosed the whole facet without any reserve? It might, and I think probably would, have prevented a Scence truly melancholy and affecting. It would have given me an opportunity of proceeding on a plan I had Months before openly communicated. It would have allowed me to derive a benefit from the uniform Industry and attention of the past year; and, what I conceive would be infinitely more pleasing and agreeable to a Humane and Benevolent mind, it would have spared great Trouble and Anxiety to an Innocent and Virtuous Family.

The Scenes that took place from the 12th to the 26th Day of March inclusive, are sufficiently known. I will not say but that your conduct was perfectly right and proper. Faithfulness in any professional Gentleman is, in my Mind highly commendable; but, Sir, you will excuse me for observing, there is a degree of delicacy which most Gentlemen would, from principle, choose to observe even in the hardest cases. How far you was influenced by this principle I will not determine. Those who know what took place will judge for themselves.

I am not insensible, that you have laid great stress on my declining to comply with the requests contained in your Letter (without

date) delivered to me on the 12th Day of March. I will take leave in this place to transcribe it at large.

"Sir," "I have just been informed that you do not choose this Day to receive company, I wish to see you five minutes, & give you my Honour I will instantly leave your House after having conversed with you."

"I am your real well wisher."

Signed "Thomas Williams Jun^r"

The person who handed me this Letter whisperred me, at the same time, "that Mr Williams had an Officer with him." Now, Sir, from the tenor of this Letter, in which you only propose "a conversation of five minutes," and by no means pledge yourself, that you will not be instrumental of introducing any other Person, and the information communicated to me, I am willing any Gentleman shall judge, whether I had not reason to apprehend some inconvenience would ensue from a compliance with your wishes upon that occasion, though I have since thought otherwise.

From the commencement of my Misfortunes, I experienced that my Spirits

were sunk, and my Body extreemely feeble; in fact, I had no serious thoughts of ever surviving the shock, and recovering my Health; but, notwithstanding this, I made it my first business to see and converse with you; and I afterwards submitted to you a plan, which, if encouraged, I felt morally persuaded, would in a reasonable time have retrieved the Misfortune, but which you have thought proper to decline ever since.

Indeed, you have recently had the goodness to say, "that You would not imprison my Body, nor take my Furniture out of my House." all this certainly looks kind and tender as it respects my Family. But, Mr Williams, give me leave seriously to ask, whether, by your declining to aid me in obtaining a reasonable time in which to enter on Business, and improve the benefit offered to me, by one who you know is both able and willing to aid me; (and who will do it on no other terms,) You do not occasion vastly more concern to my Family than if You was immediately to put in Execution the most hard and rigorous measures?

Experience has convinced me, that Misfortunes are the lott of Humanity! I have met a pretty large share already, and, I should consider it

an additional one if I should be obliged to adopt the hard alternative of quiting my abode here, and seeking a retreat elsewhere; it would be sufficiently hard to leave my Family for any length of time; and, unless proper measures should be taken to prevent it, I am apprehensive improper advantages would be taken of my absence, to represent me in an unfavourable light. I know of nothing that could remedy the first; but the latter I conceive may be effectually prevented, by a fair, Manly, & decent appeal to the Public at large & the Citizens of this Town in particular, through the medium of a Free press. This, should I be compelled to it, I am determined to adopt; and to submit a detail of Facts and occurrences that have tended to involve me, and ultimately to bring on the Catastrophe I have experienced, to the candid, judicious and upright of my Fellow Citizens, with all the communications I have had occasion to make from the begining. From this every one will be competant to Judge, whether I have merited that load of obloquoy that has been attempted to be heaped on me.

I am not insensible that several transf=

transactions have been alledged againſt me. I will mention them, and make a ſhort reply to each.

1. Mrs McCarthy's Debt.
2. What I have ſaid relative to Mr William Hyslop's Demand.
3. The Widow Weld's Debt.
4. Deacon Sumner's Debt.
5. The Effect my Failure had on Mr Ruggles's eſtimated by you at £1,000.

To the firſt, I ſay, that I never was aſked for the Money untill Saturday the 19th Day of January laſt; one of the moſt difficult periods I ever experienced: I conſidered it then an unkind advantage in a Friend; but, I had a confidence in your Honour, that you will do me the juſtice to ſay, that I anſwered you frankly, "that I could not make payment untill my return in the Spring from New York and Philadelphia, whether I propoſed to go as expeditiouſly as poſſible." If this be admitted, it will, in a degree take off the force of every ſubſequent converſation to the contrary.

To the ſecond I anſwer, that what I have ſaid relative to the tranſactions between Mr Hyslop & me, I have ſaid to him and one of his beſt Friends, openly and manly; and I am ready at any time or place to avow the ſentiments I have

delivered upon the Subject. I conceive therefore, if you are not retained by that Gentleman for the purpoſe, it would be both candid and impartial in you to leave us to ſettle our own affairs, with ſuch an unneceſſary interference; but at all events I requeſt, if you are diſſatisfied with this reply, that you will do me the favour to forward your objections in writing.

To the third I reply, that I received Mrs Weld's Money at ſeveral payments; that I improved it by her conſent and approbation; that I have punctually paid her the Intereſt as ſhe had occaſion for it; and, that I have long ſince provided for the ſecurity and payment of the Debt; this elucidation, I ſhould ſuppoſe, would at once ſilence every objection that has or can be made upon the Subject.

To the fourth I anſwer, that I undertook the Buſineſs at the requeſt, and merely to oblige Deacon Sumner; that I received the Money at ſeveral periods; that I had the free and voluntary conſent of thoſe to whom it was owing to make uſe of it, provided I ſhould pay it altogether; that I felt myſelf perfectly ſafe in doing it, and never entertained a doubt, but that it could at any time have been paid upon reaſonable no-

notice. I consider it, however, a real misfortune to that Gentleman, and, had I been at liberty to do it, I should have made that Debt one of the first objects of my attention.

To the fifth allegation I say, that Mr. Ruggles and I have been acquainted now more than twenty eight Years; that about half of that time we have lived in uncommon habits of Friendship and intimacy; that I have uniformly considered him my real Friend. on my part, I can with equal Truth and Sincerity declare, that for many years my Respect for his Person and Character has been such as would have induced me to forego almost any temporal benefit to render him happy in the first, and to cast a lustre on the latter. Indeed, I am bold to assert, that during the whole period of our acquaintance, I have never omitted any occasion when it was in my power either to advance his Reputation or promote his Interest; and I feel a firm confidence in that Gentleman's Honour and candour, that he will do me the Justice to avow it at this Day. I know that he must have experienced great Trouble and Inconvenience in consequence of my Misfortunes, and God knows I lamented it to

my Soul: and I have repeatedly expressed the same to him. I consider INGRATITUDE as one of the vilest passions that ever entered the Human breast; and, let me meet with what I may, I am determined that no one from whom I have experienced benefits, (as I certainly have from Mr Ruggles,) shall ever have just occasion to brand me with so foul a stain.

To view a Young, tender, delicate and growing Family as mine is, who stand in need of my utmost care and attention, in order that they may be properly supported, and Educated; that they may rise up Blessings and Ornaments in Society; and considering my own situation, after having devoted the prime of my life to the Service of others, I confess it occasions sensations too keen for expression: But I derive a consolation from reflecting, that I cannot accuse myself of any willful, known neglect towards them; and, that both they and I are in the hands of a kind Providence, who will never permit the Innocent to suffer but for a time.

Permit me only to observe, that none are

above

above the reach of Misfortune; but I most sincerely hope, that neither You or Yours may ever experience a similar one to that which has reached me; and, should any unfortunate event ever affect you or them, that both may experience a treatment dictated by the principles and feelings of the Christian, the Friend and the Gentleman. Be assured that, if my wishes can add to your happiness You have them in the largest extent; and, that I am Your real Friend.

Sho Clarke

P.S. I originally intended to have communicated this Letter through the medium of a Friend, unsealed; but reflecting afterwards, that you might consider it unkind or at least improper, I adopt the usual mode. I also had it in contemplation to make a short reply to Several objections you have made, at different times, to the proposition contained in my Letter of the 25th of April last; but considering that you have hitherto thought proper to withhold the Letter containing those objections, which you proposed honouring me with, I judged it unnecessary for me to consider them. However, when you are disposed to forward it, you may be assured, I shall without delay, transmit a full, and I hope, a satisfactory reply.

Note. I accidentally omited copying the following Letter at the time it was written, and therefore insert a coppy of it here.

Roxbury 1 April 1793

Mr Giles Alexander Junior

Dear Sir,

It is certainly one of the greatest consolations that an Unfortunate Man can experience to be able to apply to a Friend, with a proper degree of confidence, who has both the power and the will to relieve his necessities, and point out the means whereby his anxiety may be alleviated and his future prospects brightened. I should be chargable with Ingratitude were I to conceal from You, that amidst the painful Scene through which I have recently passed, I have derived the most substantial benefits from your kind attention to me and mine. There is a pleasure, I may say, a luxury in doing Good, which a mind wholly absorbed in Selfish pursuits can never experience. It tends to warm the Heart of the Unfortunate with generous Sentiments of Gratitude towards a

Ba

Benefactor; and it never fails to meet the approbation of that Being who is the great Author of all true Benevolence. I conceived it my duty Sir, prior to my entering on the Subject of this Letter, to give you this Testimony of my Esteem; and I choose to do it in writing, that (should I at any future period of my life, prove unworthy of your Patronage, which Heaven forbid!) it may remain as a witness against me, and stamp me with the foulest reproach.

There are in my mind four Resources which I consider as a foundation of my future Hopes; and which may be improved as a means to the attainment of a decent support for a truly virtuous Wife and seven Innocent children. I will state them in the order in which they have occured to me, with my thoughts upon each of them.

First, to endeavour to obtain some Office in the New County, which is to take place on the first 20th Day of June next.

Second, to open an Office in some proper place in the Town of Boston, for the purpose of drawing all kinds of Instruments usually wanted in the Mercantile and other lines of Business.

Third

Third, to obtain a station in the Bank, to the due execution of which I may be judged to be suitably qualified. And,

Fourthly, To open a Shop or Store in Boston, under the Patronage of my good Friend, in which to vend Goods upon Commission, or otherwise, as shall be agreed on; in which case West India Goods would be preferred on account of the acquaintance I have heretofore had with that Business.

The first proposition, it appears to me, will necessarily lead to a routine of company, and consequently expence, which, I am pretty certain the Business, in many Years, cannot compensate. and Sure I am I have had sufficient experience already of Honor without profit.

The second plan must rest entirely on the Success I may have in it, I am morally certain, that if I enjoy my Health, I shall be able to give general satisfaction; and I can also depend on the aid of many good Friends in the undertaking; yet, if it should upon trial be found insufficient to afford a mere decent support, pay House rent and other unavoidable expences, it would prove a mere fruitless undertaking. It therefore deserves serious consideration before it is adopted.

The third proposition would be the most efficient one, provided it could be honourably obtained, (and Heaven forbid I should ever obtain this or any other place otherwise). It is true this business will require very close application in Office hours; but I should endeavour to remedy this by a proper degree of exercise at other seasons.

The fourth proposition would lead to a more active life, constant employ, and afford a greater variety; at the same time it will give a greater degree of Independance, and spare no inconsiderable expence which every Man in Public life is more or less subjected to, by the company he is obliged to keep.

You will observe, Sir, that of the four plans, I am inclined to give the preference to the two last; and that the latter of these will be more congenial to my idea's and feelings, and more conducive to Health than either of the others. I have besides an higher inducement: My little Son Thomas, so far as I have been able to observe (and I have endeavoured not

to be too partial in his favour), appears to bid fair to make an attentive, Industrious Youth, in any business that his constitution is capable of performing. If therefore the last alternative should be adopted, I think he may be very useful to me, as well as beneficial to himself.

I am far from wishing to prescribe terms for myself, much less am I desirous that any Friend of mine should in the least degree expound his property by aiding me. On the contrary, I conceive that a plan may be adopted by which my Friend in any exigence may be pretty secure, and be assured of a due, and I hope, a competant remittance, at such periods as should be agreed on.

I however submit these idea's to your, and the consideration of such other of my Friends to whom you may think proper to communicate the same; and shall be willing to pursue my duty in such way as shall be judged most advisable under all circumstances.

Hea=

Heaven, Sir, has bestowed its bounties on You in the most liberal manner. It is a sacred Trust committed to you, which, from what I have observed in your conduct towards others, and experienced myself, I am assured, you are determined to use in such a manner as will give you the greatest pleasure in future life; as will redound to your immortal Honour as a Man: and will finally meet the plaudit of H.H. who is justly considered as the Supreme Source of every Blessing.

With grateful Sentiments of Respect.

I am, Dear Sir, Your affectionate Friend

Tho Clarke.

Roxbury 20 July 1793.

Mr Benjamin Beale Junior

Sir

Several of my Family being very much indisposed, particularly Mr Clarke: and having occasion for a few indispensible necessaries in consequence, will apologize for my renewing my request of the 14th & 27th of May last. My little Son waits on you, by whom I request you will be so obliging to forward the Money. I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servt

Tho Clarke

July 20. 1793.

Sir, You will observe by the above account there is a Ballance due me of £1.2:3. If convenient, I request you will be so good to send it by the bearer.

Your Friend & Servant

Tho Clarke

Mr William Blaney.

Roxbury 22 July 1793.

Rev'd William Emerson

Dear Sir,

I have taken much Satisfaction in the visit you permited Thomas to make us the past week; and, I am also pleased with the improvements he has made in the little time he has been under your Tuition at Harvard.

By the conversations that have passed between us in times past, and the communications I have done myself the honour of making to you, you are able to judge of my uniform and unalterable opinion relative to the Education of Youth. I am far from supposing that

a Liberal Education is requisite to every one; because a constant pursuit of the Sciences might tend to preclude a proper attention to Industry, which is indispensibly necessary to the well-being & support of the Community. It is, however, my decided opinion, that the happiness and prosperity of the Body politic depends essentially on a general dissemination of useful Knowledge, especially in a Republican Government, where every individual is supposed to have a Share in making the Laws for the due order and regulation of it; and where, in Theory, every Man may be considered, in a proper degree, a Legislator.

To appear on the Theatre of Human Life with Respectability, is certainly very desirable. Those who act their respective parts well are undoubtedly entitled to applause: Whether therefore, a Man is called to take a part in a more exalted or

or humble station, if he fills up the measure of his duty, and discharges himself with Honour and fidelity, he ought to be considered a good Citizen. This, my Dear Sir, is all I wish my Children to attain to. For what is the utmost extent of Human life? a mere "Vapour that appears for a little time and soon vanisheth away."

I have provided for Thomas the Books and necessaries which I think he will have occasion for; and commit him cheerfully to your care; in full confidence that you will Instruct him in every thing you shall judge necessary to complete a mere common Education. I have only to desire, That he may be directed to write to me once a week, whether he has or has not an opportunity of transmiting his Letters regularly, or any thing material to say. With real Esteem & Respect for Yourself & the amiable Family in which you reside, I am, Revd & Dear Sir, Your & their Obt Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 24 July 1793.

William Hunt Esqr

Dear Sir,

Inclosed I send you an Alias Ex on "Joseph Ruggles vs Francis How." for the ballance due on which, Mr Ruggles requests you will be pleased to commence a new action in the County of Middlesex. I am, Sir, Your Obt Servt

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 26 July 1793

John Read Esqr

Dear Sir,

The inclosed account was agreed to be passed by the Selectmen of the last Year, and I was accordingly directed to obtain the amount and draw the order; but not having sufficient time for the purpose, it was omited.

I flatter myself, Sir, that you will have the goodness to lay it before the Selectmen the first opportunity, and obtain an Order. I am, Sir,

with great regard & Esteem,

Your Obedient Servt

Sho Clarke

The acct above refered to was Mr Thomas Adams's for printing for the Town an acct of the Small Pox.

Roxbury 1 August 1793.

Mr Aaron Davis Junr

Sir

A few days since Mr Joseph Ruggles acquainted me, that he delivered the Papers he had of me, relating to Mr Blaney's concerns, to you or Mr Moses Davis, I am uncertain which, to be forwarded to me; I shall be much obliged if you will be so good to forward them by the bearer hereof.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your Obt Hble Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 13 August 1793.

Arnold Welles Esqr.

Sir, When I had the pleasure of conversing with you on the subject of Mr Blaney's concerns, You was pleased to say, "that although you thought very hard of his conduct towards you, you would not stand out." Mr Russell and I have since conversed upon the subject, and signed an ac=quittance, which, with the assignment, I inclose for your decision. The principal debt due Mr Blaney appears to be from the Public, on which I confess, I do not place much reli=ance; not because I think it not due, but on account of the distance of time since the business was transacted, and the state of the accounts between this and the United States, which, by this time, I should suppose are nearly closed: it is, however, worth attempting, and giving it a fair triall. If you shall think proper to execute the Instruments, and will return it to me, I will immedi=ately obtain the Books, and leave them with Mr Russell, that the proper mea=

measures may be taken to collect the Debt.

I am, Sir, with sentiments of Respect,
Your Obedient and very Hble Servt

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 16 August 1793.

Mr Giles Alexander Junr,

Dear Sir, I have duly considered what you suggested to me, on the 14th instant, relative to the House & Land I mortgaged to you, on the 14th Day of February last, and now beg leave to communicate my sentiments upon that subject. I suppose the place, situated as it is, with all the advantages attending it, to be worth at least £600. and I believe, with a few necessary repairs, it will let for £45. pr annum, which would leave the sum of £9. each Year over and above the Interest of the Money, to be applied to alterations and repairs, if they should be judged needful. Now, Sir, I am desirous

on

on the one hand, that you should hold the place if you please; on the other I really wish that all my honest creditors should be benefited by it as much as possible, to the amount of its value, and I am assured you do not wish any advantage which ever, must be less an improper one. The incumbrances already upon it, including your Mortgage will amount to about £450. consequently there will remain £150 still; and if Mrs Wilkinson's wicked Debt can be removed, it will augment it to about £240. a sum that will go a great way towards emancipating me of my present difficulties. If I could only bring ~~being~~ one or two persons who are Interested to an accommodation, I think every thing would be set right at once. Under these circumstances I would submit to you the propriety of your submitting these ideas to Mr Thomas Williams Junr, who has been the principal person through the whole scene

to oppose my views, but for what reason God only knows.

Should the plan I now suggest be effected, I should in that case take occasion to renew my request contained in my Letter to you of the first of April last, and avail myself of the benefit you had the goodness and humanity to hold out to me. It must be obvious to every reflecting mind, that my Family is extremely dear to me; that it necessarily engages my utmost attention to provide for their decent support; for which purpose, I certainly would leave no laudable pursuit unattempted that is within the compass of my ability to effect. I should therefore enter on a new System of business with great alacrity, and pursue it with renewed ardour, adopting as far as possible, this maxim, that "Wherever the ~~life~~ vital principle subsists in full vigour wounds are soon healed. that disorders

themselves are a species of remedies; and every new loss not only shews how it may be repaired, but by the vigour it inspires makes new advantages known." I know of several branches of business that may be pursued to advantage in the autumn of the year such as the packing of pork &c, which seldom if ever fail to net something handsome to the person who undertakes it: and I would wish, every impediment being cleared out of the way; to render every attempt as productive as possible, laying aside every other pursuit that might militate with it. I take leave to lay these hints before you, and submit them to your consideration. I am Dear Sir, with Respect, Your Affectionate Friend

Tho Clarke

P.S. If you shall think proper to communicate any of the idea's of this letter to Mr Williams which you have my consent to do, I will think one objection he will make, viz: Jacob Davis's subsequent Mortgage, which, I have all along supposed has been the stick, but which I think I can easily remove if necessary.

Wednesday Evening 23. August 1793.

Joseph Ruggles Esqr

Dear Sir,

When I reflect on the intimacy that has subsisted between us, and upon the times when we seldom met each other without giving and receiving mutual tokens of attachment and esteem; and when I consider what has occasioned an interruption of this harmony, it gives me the most sensible concern. Those considerations, My Friend, have made me anxiously solicitous, of having a free, candid and moderate conversation upon the subject; which, I presume your various avocations has hitherto prevented: I rely on your candour, however, that you will indulge "An old Friend," in a request so equitable. I say "an old Friend," because, if there ever was a Man with whom you have been connected, that merited the appellation, I believe the general tenor of my conduct towards you for a series of years, will prove that I have: and Misfortune, (of which I have met an heavy proportion in the course of the past Year,) has in no degree effaced the impression from my mind; and

and the greatest concern I experience (next to the trouble in which a truly virtuous Wife and seven innocent children are involved), arises from a consideration that any Friend of mine should suffer in consiquence; and most happy should I be in an opportunity of giving such the most substantial proof of the sincerity of this declaration. with the utmost alacrity I would embrace an occasion so agreeable as that of rendering them, and you in particular, any acceptable Service in my power. I consider Ingratitude as one of the vilest passions that was ever harboured in the human breast; and I am determined, let me meet with what I may, no one from whom I have experienced benefits (and I certainly have from Mr Ruggles) shall have just reason to brand me with so foul a Stain.

Sentiments, Sir, thus candid and explicit, cannot fail to convince You of my views in a personal conversation: I will attend it, at any Time and Place you may think proper to appoint; and I would wish, (if agreeable to you, but not otherwise,) that any one or more impartial and disinterested Person or Persons, may be present

on the occasion; Let them be of that discription, and I will chearfully submit the nomination to yourself. and I feel a strong persuasion, that you will feel it equally your duty both as a Gentleman and a Christian.

I am, Sir, Your real Friend

Sho Clarke

The request contained in the foregoing letter being unattended to, the same was renewed June 19. 1794. See page 350-351. of this Book.

Roxbury 24 August 1793

Mr William Blaney.

Sir,

I have occasion for a few trifles for immediate use, which must be my apology for my renewing my request of the 20th ult.

Your compliance this morning will oblige, Sir, Your Obt Servant

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 24th August. 1793.

My Dear Son, Your two Letters of July 30th & 31st
Instant are before me, the contents of which give
me much Satisfaction. I have also read that of
the 11th instant addressed to your Brother William,
which I think, exceeds either of the former both
in diction and stile, because, perhaps it was
wrote later; for I take it for granted you are
improving your Time well, and making daily
and even hourly Progress in the pursuit of learn
ing. If in the course of eight Days only, you have
been able to make such Proficiency, (and I assure
you it appears considerable,) what may I not
reasonably expect to find you have attained to,
when You shall have compleated your term at
Harvard? In this, be assured, I speak my real
sentiments, and I communicate them to you
with pleasure: commendation is certainly due to
improvment and merit; and this ought to excite
you, my Son, to still greater exertions to attain, and
if possible, to excell in the branches of Science in
which You are engaged.

It affords me no less Satisfaction to
observe, that hitherto You have behaved in such
a manner as to gain the Esteem of your Revd

Preceptor, of Madam Grosvenor, the young Ladies,
and your young Friend Sparhawk. As this is
the natural consiquence of a decent and be
coming deportment in a Youth, You will,
I am perswaded, from principle, persevere in
it; and make it your constant endeavour in
every respect to merit further marks of
their approbation. Be attentive and watch
over Yourself on all occasions. When in your
study let no vain pursuit interrupt your
Studies. When you relax from this, always
endeavour, by an obliging behaviour, to make
Yourself agreeable, but never give way to an
unbecoming levity; on the other hand, never
allow Yourself to discover the least degree
of moroseness, indecency or rudeness. It is
one steady, uniform and manly deportment,
that will recommend you, and ensure you
the Love and good will of those with whom
You may be connected.

I highly approve of your writing to
your Brothers, Sisters and other Friends as op
portunities present; this shews that you retain
an affectionate remembrance of them: among
others be not unmindful of the Revd Mr Porter, in
whom you have a kind Friend and hearty well
wisher.

It.

It is probable you will receive herewith a Letter from your Young Friend and associate John Curtis, perhaps to acquaint you with the great and irreparable loss he has just sustained in the Death of his Father. If this is the case, you ought to write him a Letter of Condolence, in which you will do well to mention his Mama and all his Brothers and Sisters, in a kind and affectionate manner. Such attentions as these never fail to give Satisfaction; and they generally make impressions on the Mind that time cannot soon eradicate.

It is by no means my design to qualify you for a Statesman, nor indeed any Office whatever; for I shall always utterly disapprove of your acting in any Public station. On the contrary, I wish you to become in due time, a Man of Business, & to be able to conduct it with ability and Integrity. The Science of Letter writing, of Book keeping, and Arithmatick, therefore, ought to be your principal objects; as these, with Industry, Oeconomy, Temperance and Prudence, under the Smiles of Heaven, will carry you through life with Honour and respectability. You will see by these hints how much stress I lay on your improving your mind, and storing it with

useful idea's; and you may depend upon it as a Fact, that the Time you now devote to this purpose, if rightly improved, will prove a Source of pleasure to you in future life; and a uniform adherance to the rules I have laid down will tend to promote it.

You are not insensible, my Son, that I have once seen you recovered as it were from the gates of the Grave: I have considered you as spared for some good purpose; but this must depend essentially on your own endeavours. with them you may attain all I wish you to; but without them, all my care and attention to promote your welfare will prove ineffectual. Let these considerations then, influence your conduct, and prompt you to act your part well in every situation in which Providence may see fit to place you.

Your Mama, Brothers & Sisters, and Polly Croxford are in good Health, long may you enjoy this inestimable blessing.

I am, My Son, very affectionately Yours

Fra. Clarke

P. S. I have read with great pleasure your Letter of the 17th instant to your Mama: you certainly did right in writing to her; I hope you will continue to do so.

Roxbury 24 August 1793.

Mr Samuel Wait

Dear Sir, I have communicated to you my intention of addressing you on the subject of Mr Jacob Davis's demand on Clarke & Gay, and of explaining my sentiments more fully on that subject; but as it has been almost exhausted, I think it unnecessary to trouble You with Facts and reasonings upon it; but to reserve what I have further to offer to be addressed to the Assignees; being most clearly of opinion, that the Facts are so notorious; and the Arguments in support of them so conclusive, that they cannot, on fair principles, be controverted.

But, my Friend, I beg leave to bar to bespeak your attention to this subject, as I feel personally interested in it, and responsible to you on that account. And I flatter myself I shall experience that candour from You on this occasion, which I have uniformly considered a principal trait in your character. In order to see the worst of this business, I will put the hardest possible case, in my opinion, that can happen. Suppose then that all the Stock and Debts of the Company, on a final adjustment, should pay only 13/4 on the Pound, this, on the Sum of £198.18.3½, would leave a deficiency of £66.6.1, for one half of which, and

no more £33.3.0½, my Share was intended originally to be responsible to Mr Davis; nor could it, or indeed was it, ever considered in any other light. This to be sure is a Sum too great for any one to loose, but Yet when put in competition with the effect it produces to me and my Family, I will submit to you as a Friend and a Gentleman, how far it merits your candid and deliberate consideration. Several of my Creditors think, and I will say justly too, that as they could have no portion of Clarke & Gay's Stock, it is unreasonable that Clarke & Gay's Creditors should come in for any Share of mine; and for this reason chiefly, have hitherto refused to come to any accommodation whereby I could enter on business, and provide for the decent support of my Family; in consequence of which, I have been compelled by hard necessity, to continue useless for more than five months past, to the great injury of my Health, and the concern and anxiety of my Family; circumstances, Sir, that would penetrate the heart of insensibility itself!

Besides this, there is one attachment which appears to militate with the Deed to Mr Davis

Davis, which, whether right or wrong, may, and probably will, occasion a Scene of altercation, attended with both Cost and delay; the former of which cannot fail to absorb and diminish the Property, and the latter to operate to the great injury if not the utter ruin of my Family; and after all, should you or Mr Davis ultimately recover, it would take perhaps nearly one whole year to effect it, and if you derived any consi=derable benefit, still there would remain three years redemption. Now, Sir, I beg you to consi=der, whether in this way you could reasonably hope to be benefited? and whether you could bear to see an Old Friend, in consequence of it, subjected to such great and manifest trouble and inconvenience for so long a time? Sure I am, if I have a proper idea of your Benevo=lence and Humanity, and I believe I have of both, You would reluct at it as much as any Man living. On the other hand, should I give you my Obligation, payable at a future period, Would you not stand a much fairer chance to obtain the whole? It appears to me most obviously that you would, and in a way more easy and convenient to both. But, my Friend, suffer me to put an harder case

still; suppose you should ultimately loose the £33.3.0½. could you upon the whole consi=der it a real loss? May I not modestly ad=mit, that in consequence of my particular attention, and unwearied exertions, your present situation is vastly more eligible than it otherwise would have been? You know, Sir, the circumstances to which I allude; and you also know how far I was instrumental in effecting them; and I feel the strongest assurance that you will be disposed, upon due consideration of them, to indulge me in my request; and to exo=nerate a truly virtuous and inoffensive Family from a State of the utmost anxi=ety. These are the ideas that have occur=red to me; and I submit them in full confi=dence to your Justice and Humanity.

I am, Sir, with Real Esteem and Regard,
Your real Friend
Tho Clarke

Roxbury 26 August 1793.

Mr Benjamin Beale Junr

Sir, Inclosed in yours of the 20th of July past. I received one Pound ten Shillings: If convenient to you, I shall be much obliged by the remaining Sum of of Three pounds Sixteen Shillings this Morning. I am, Sir, Your most obt Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 26 August 1793.

Mr Giles Alexander Junr

Dear Sir, You are sensible I generally choose to make my communications relative to busi: nose of considerable consequence, in writing, in order to be pro: perly understood, and to prevent mistakes; of which you do, I believe, approve from the same motives.

In my letter of the 16th instant I commu: nicated my sentiments relative to the place; and suggested some idea's relative to a present adjustment, and my future pursuits: In the former I have made some progress, and have a reasonable hope of suc:

ceeding; and, I will now mention to you in confidence, (for it is ab present a profound secret, and I wish to keep it so) what has been suggested to me relative to the latter. Mr Nathaniel Sparhawk has two Stores now under his improvement, one on the top of the Hill by my House, and the other below where Colonel Patten formerly kept. This last he has proposed that I should improve in connection with him; and I have his request to communicate it to you, but to no one else for the present; if you approve the measure I should wish to adopt it, but not otherwise.

I have, I confess, been averse to forming any connection of the kind; but I have attentively considered Mr Sparhawk's character and expe: rience in business, both of which have great weight with me on this occasion. I know him to be very clear and independant in his cir: cumstances; and I also know him to be uni: formly steady and attentive in his business, and to possess a superior judgment in purchasing Goods, which would be his principal business, for both Stores. Added to this, I consider the

place a good stand; and that it has been accustom
:ed for many Years.

You are sensible, my Friend, that I never have desired to avail myself of your Property, especially where I had the least reason to believe it would in any degree be in danger; but this being effectually removed, I should most gratefully accept your very kind Benev:volent and Humane offer of assistance. I therefore submit the proposition to your consideration: If I undertake, I shall make an attention to the Store my sole object; and I believe you will be as well satisfied with the connection as any I could possibly form; and, if life and Health is spared, I entertain a hope, that by close attention to this business, with Prudence and Oconomy, I shall be able in a few Years to retrieve my misfortunes. and permit me to add, your kind attention will infinitely oblige me, and be most acceptable to one of the most virtuous Women on Earth, and a Family of Children truely inoffensive, whose sensibility will be touched, and whose gratitude will flow in proportion to the obli:gation. And what will, I am persuaded, have infinitely more weight in your mind, it will

be an act highly meritorious in the sight of Heaven: and redound to your Honour as a Gentleman, a Friend and a Christian. If you please, I request you to converse with my Friend Mr Sparhawk upon the subject, and I will wait on you when it shall be agreeable and convenient to you for the same purpose. I am, Sir, your affectionate Friend & humble servant

Sho Clarke

(Secret and most private.)

Roxbury 28 August 1793.

Mr Nathaniel Sparhawk

Dear Sir, In the course of about five Months past, the treatment I have met with, has almost led me to believe, that I had scarcely a Friend on Earth, notwithstanding the exertions I have made for a series of Years, to contribute to the happiness of others. What malevolent policy has dictated it, is, to me a secret; and perhaps will remain so. You may easily conceive, that in consequence of this, on the one hand; and the affection I have for a truly virtuous Wife, and seven inoffensive

Children, on the other, I must have experienced great inquietude. Under these circumstances, my Friend, the proposition you communicated to me (in confidence) a few days since, was a timely cordial to my soul. Nothing could be more salutary to me, and to my Family; and nothing could more effectually put to silence, if not to shame, an host of unprovoked, and I may add, ungrateful, Enemies. If it can take effect, and I am morally certain it can, if proper measures are adopted, it would tend at once to relieve my mind from embarrassments, and occasion an heart felt consolation to those I most tenderly Love, from the ties of Nature and affection.

The plan, however, must depend in a great measure on the representation you may be pleased to make, to my Friend, on whom I rely for support, and my own efforts should it be adopted. I have endeavoured prudently to lay the foundation for the former; and as to the latter, your own observation and experience, ~~will~~ of the general tenor of my conduct, will render you as competant to judge as any Man living. I therefore take leave, in full confidence of your Friendship, to submit these hints to your consideration;

and to request your attention to my situation, by seeing and conversing with Mr Alexander, or otherwise as you shall judge expedient.

No language can express the satisfaction I should experience in the connection should it be adopted; and I am sure it would occasion sensations to my family truely grateful and magnanimous; and their hearts would expand with lively sentiments of Joy on an occurrence so salutary and beneficial to them. I am, Sir, with real Esteem & Respect,

Your real Friend & obt Servt.

Jno. Clarke

Roxbury 30 August 1793.

Mr Giles Alexander Junr

Dear Sir, By a reperusal of my letter to you of the 16th instant, I find I was not sufficiently explicit relative to the Place mortgaged to you, and therefore embrace this opportunity to explain myself more fully on that subject. It is my intention as soon as circumstances will permit, to relinquish it wholly to you, to be disposed of as you shall think proper; in which case,

however, I wish you to be perfectly satisfied relative to its value. I believe it would fetch more than I have estimated it at, but I am desirous it should rest in your hands, in the first place because I have good ground to believe that the value of it will increase in proportion to the growth and business of the Town; and in the next place, because I hope at some future day to repossess it, if you and I can agree upon the terms.

But all this must depend on the success of the plan of business I suggested to you in my letter of the 26 instant. It is a maxim verified by experience and observation, "That a friend in need is one indeed." When in consequence of a train of Misfortunes, I experienced a melancholy Catastrophe the last Spring, Your Humanity and benevolence was conspicuous; you administered that consolation which alone is calculated to support a disconsolate mind. You desired me to communicate to you my wishes relative to a new System of business, and you promised me every reasonable assistance in the prosecution of it. I accordingly communicated my ideas in my letter of the fifth of april, last of which You was pleased to approve, and

gave me leave to make use of your name to those who were interested in my pursuits and prospects. This I disseminated prudently to those concerned, in the honest hope that they would second my views by discovering at least some trait of magnanimity: But alas! some malevolent policy has interposed to prevent those good intentions from being carried into effect; in consequence of which I have remained in a great measure inactive ever since. The scene, however, now appears to be shifting, and I have a reasonable hope of being able to carry my views into effect, if I can be enabled to enter on business, and pursue it with assiduity; but this, my friend, must essentially depend on your kind and obliging assistance.

You are sensible, my Dear Sir, that notwithstanding your Humane and generous offers of contributing towards the immediate support of my Family, I have hitherto cautiously avoided being burthensome to you. Your very kind attentions, however, though a most painful and trying scene, as they justly merit, have excited in my mind and

in the minds of my Family the warmest Sentiments of Gratitude; Sentiments, Sir, which no length of Time, or change of circumstances can ever eradicate.

It is now to be determined, whether I am to sink beneath oppression, and suffer the hand of Fate that ingratitude and malevolence can inflict; or whether I shall, by improving the benefit proffered to me by a kind Friend, and exerting those Talents which Heaven has blessed me with, rise superior to the insults of unprovoked, and relentless foes; Men who, if they would acknowledge half the Truth, would be constrained to confess, that they had never experienced any thing from me but the most obliging attentions on all occasions.

You are sensible, Sir, that your Property has always been sacred in my views; and that I never have, directly or indirectly, desired you to expound any proportion of it on my account. No: so far from this, I have uniformly considered that you have acquired it by dint of Industry and application, under the smiles of Heaven; and that you alone have a right to enjoy and dispose of it as you shall judge proper.

It has been my [illegible] hitherto in life to

devote a great proportion of my Time and Talents, such as they are, to the service of others: By this means I have lost the small Property I was many years accumulating. It is now my firm and unalterable determination to relinquish every other pursuit but that of a constant attention to business; in this way I hope and believe, that in a few years I shall be able to retrieve all my misfortunes. For the attainment of this, however, under Providence, I depend on your goodness and munificence.

I am, Sir, with lively gratitude & Esteem,
Your Affectionate Friend & Obt Servt
Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3 September 1793

Doctor John Sprague

Sir, Mr Thaddeus Mason has communicated to me Mr Thomas Williams June Letter to you of the 26 ult. and delivered your Message relative to it. In answer to which I beg leave to reply, that it was my original intention to have charged myself with the two pair of Breeches sold you some time since by Clarke & Gay, and to have let them gone in discharge of my account with you, but it entirely slipt my mind at the time; and, consiquent on the misfortune that attended the Company, your among other Accounts was assigned to the Creditors. I am truly concerned that this has happened, but I know of no way at this moment to remedy it, but that of paying the Money. Were it in my power I would chearfully do it myself; but a Scene of adverse events have put it out of my power at the present time to do it. Indeed, having made Public business my principal object for a number of Years, through many trying Scenes, it has tended to absorb the little Property I was many years accumulating, and to involve me and my Family in distress. I do not, however,

regret this ~~situation~~ so much on my own as on the Account of Several of my Friends, who, for the present are obliged to lay out of their just dues. This being the case, I shall be much obliged if you will be so good to discharge the Demand; when I resume business anew, and have had a little chance to recover from my Misfortunes, I will attend to your demand against me with great pleasure.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, Your Obt Servt

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 4 September 1793.

The Revd William Emerson

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of receiving your esteemed favour of the 2d instant from Doctor Parker. The satisfaction you express in conversing Epistolarily, is on my part reciprocal; indeed, I am seldom happier than when I can be permitted to be secluded from the cares of life, and communicate my sentiments without reserve to those whose characters, ~~&c~~ principles and conduct, I revere and respect: Among these, My Friend, there are none who have a more

more distinguished place in my mind than yourself, both from personal and public considerations. as a private Friend you have certainly endeared your self to me by every kind and obliging attention: as a public and private Teacher of Religion, of the Sciences, and good morals, your character & Talents are justly held in the highest estimation, by all who enjoy the happiness of your acquaintance. Long, Sir, may you continue to be useful in the Sphere in which Providence has seen fit to place you, and you experience those delightful reflections that never fail to result from a consciousness of doing good.

It affords me unspeakable pleasure to be informed, "that Thomas is heathful, studious and good." My Children are at once the delight of my eyes, and (if they behave well) the joy of my heart. nature prompts one to the former: good dispositions, good Education, Precepts and Examples, can alone ensure the latter. on my part I can with Truth assert, that I learnt the value of learning by the want of it; being deprived of the most esteemable benefits at that period of life which, on all accounts, is most susceptible of good impressions, and best adapted to imbibe them. All the information I ever got was from experience and Observation;

and I therefore, long since determined to give all my Children the best chance in my power to attain it while young.

I communicated your Letter to Mrs Clarke. it affords her great satisfaction; and she desires me to communicate to you her respectful compliments in return.

If I have in any degree contributed to the "soothing your cares," which I know must be great, you cannot take more pleasure in the enjoyment than I do in the reflection. Should you have occasion for any thing in my power to obtain, You may be assured I shall attend to your commands with alacrity.

Had I known of your return to Roxbury, I would have spared no pains to have seen and conversed with you, if but for a moment. The sight and conversation of Friends never fail to be agreeable, when convenient to them; Yours is particularly so to me on all occasions.

A "Journey made agreeable by many agreeable circumstances," cannot fail of affording pleasure, not only at the time, but on a retrospective view of it: and a welcome reception among our intimate Friends and connections, is a proof of their affection and esteem.

That your Young Pupils should discover their regard for a Preceptor endeared to them by every kind attention to their best Interest, was natural. Had they done otherwise they would have discovered a total want of sensibility, I will not say, Ingratitude towards a kind benefactor, because this of all crimes is the most unnatural.

I hope you will be able to spare a little Time to perusse the Books you refer to, because I am sure they will afford you both information and pleasure; but I am sensible you are very careful of your Time, and cautious how you divert yourself out of that Track which you have choosen for your principal employment through life. A little diversity, however, may tend in a degree "to soothe your cares," and sharpen your appetite for still more important pursuits.

You will consider, my Friend, that you do not receive this Letter from a Paul, a Pliny, a Solon, or any of the celebrated antiquarians, but from a Peasant inhabiting an humble cell. It contains the language of the Heart, and I flatter myself you will readily pardon the inaccuracies of the Pen, when I assure you I have only time to subscribe myself your sincere Friend, and most obedient Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 5 September 1793.

My Dear Son

Although I am deprived of the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a Letter from you, by Doctor Parker (because I presume you had not time to complete all your dispatches you wished to forward by that opportunity) Yet, as safe opportunities are not frequent, I avail myself of this, with alacrity, to communicate with you.

The letters you wrote to Mr Gay & John Curtis were delivered to them respectively, the former I have seen, and am much pleased with its contents; I hope the latter was equally judicious and properly adapted to the melancholy occasion on which, I suppose, it was written. If I can obtain a sight of it, which I hope to do, I may ch another time, perhaps, give you my opinion upon it.

In my last Letter of the 24th ult, I gave you my opinion of your improvements, of the Lessons you appear to have gained in Madam Grafenon's family, and added such Precepts as I thought proper for your guidance in future. and I have now the unspeakable pleasure of communicating what your Revd Preceptor is pleased to say of you,

"That you are Healthful, Studious and good." as these are very comprehensive expressions, and do you great Honour, you cannot be too careful in your endeavours still to merit further marks of his approbation: It is a subject that cannot fairly be exhausted. To be Healthful is to be prudent and Temperate in eating, drinking and exercising; in short, in every thing we do, we should aim at the preservation of Health, as this is the greatest earthly Blessing, and life is but a poor bargain without it. By being Studious, you acquire Knowledge; and this will qualify you for Business of almost any kind, and make you a useful member of Society. And to be good, is to imbibe right principles, Honour, Probity and every manly virtue; and to be careful that the general tenor of your conduct quadrates with them. Reason and understanding, is given us for the purpose, undoubtedly, of regulating and governing our Appetites and passions; it operates as an Helm or Rudder to guide and direct us in every thing that concerns our welfare, either in this or the future life. You see then how beneficial good conduct has been to you already; and this ought to operate as a stimulous to you to persevere in it.

In

In the course of the past Summer many Deaths have happened among us; The Widow Marston, a very aged Lady who, tho' extreme poor, came of a good family, and was remarkable for being a person of good sense. Mr John Curtis, a Gentleman who had acquired, and justly too, the character of an Industrious, useful Citizen. His Death is generally lamented on that account by his fellow Citizens. To his Family the loss, to human view, is irreparable. The Widow Ayres, who, you know, has long laboured under indisposition of Body. and within a week past, Mr Joseph Williams, Capt Williams's oldest son: a young Gentleman, who, by his Industry, good conduct, and fair character, had become highly respected as a Merchant. The loss to his Parents and friends is very great. What is extraordinary in this event, is, that Mr Williams has lived a number of years at Baltimore, and came here a few weeks since on a visit, and here sickened and died. Such is the uncertainty of Human life, and Earthly enjoyments. That you may escape the ills, and enjoy the comforts of it, is the wish of your affectionate Parent.

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 5 September 1793

Mr William Blaney.

Sir, When your Young Man, Phinehas Patrick, had the Cloth of me March 24 & 26. 1791. you mentioned to me," that Colonel Gill was his Guardian, that he would pay for the Clothing You was then geting for him, in a few days, when you would pay me." as it was a trifling matter I thought no more of it untill July 20 & August 24 past, when I took the liberty to request payment. Since which you have forwarded a message by my little Son, "that you was very busy, but if I would call on you, you would settle the account." I have several times been by your House, but observing you was from home, and engaged in business, I did not judge it expedient to trouble you on the subject. I therefore, in full confidence, inclose the account, ballanced agreeable to your wishes, and flatter myself you will have no objection to forwarding the small ballance by the same conveyance.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 7 September 1793.

Mr Benjamin Beale Junr

Sir I was truly sorry that I was not at home when you was so good to call upon me a few days since, had I known your intention I would have drawn out the account and left it for you. The ballance I have appropriated for a particular purpose, which cannot be effected after this Day 11 Clock; the payment therefore, will essentially oblige me; and I have accordingly annexed the account regularly ballanced & signed.

Through the whole Scene of ill treatment that malevolence and illiberality has dictated towards me for more than six months past, I feel a consolation that no one has or can charge me with avarice: I consider money a mere convenience, adapted to the occasions of the Community; and had I not a particular call, I would by no means trouble you upon the Subject. I am, Sir,

Your most obt Servt

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 16 September 1793

Mr Samuel Wait

Dear Sir, I am, thank Heaven! once more recovered from the gates of the grave. my Physician considered my case alarming, supposed me threatned with a fever of the most malignant kind; this was truly the case, and I believe 48 hours would have determined my existance. The Doctor, however, did not know the real cause of my illness, and of course could not apply a radical remedy. I will tell you in confidence the true source of it, and the only salutary application that can be applied. For a number of years past, I have, with great alacrity, laid myself out to oblige my Friends and Neighbours; various vicissitudes of prosperous and adverse Fortune has attended me. While the former was predominent, I never wanted Friends: But when the shades of adversity surrounded me, my Friends disappeared. Indeed I have been left in the relentless Jaws of Avarice, of Malice, and wretchedness, without any other consolation than the Integrity of my own heart: This indeed would be a sufficient one had I not a Young, a tender, and I trust, a

virtuous Family, whose sole dependance for a comfortable support and decent Education is on my exertions. You, Sir, have repeatedly manifested the warmest attachment for me and for them; and as often "offered both, that you would willingly do any thing in your power to alleviate our misfortunes." In this I placed implicit confidence; and, on the 24th of August past, pointed out to you a measure in which you could be highly beneficial to me and mine, without the least injury or inconvenience to yourself; at least, if you complied with what I requested, I venture to say, and I speak it with confidence, it would bear no more comparison with what I have done for you in years past than an ounce of Lead to an ounce of pure Silver. What, Sir, can be the ground of hesitation? Does any one suppose you would give up a tittle of your Demand against Mr Jacob Davis? The very idea is an absurd one. Mr Ruggles has certainly had it in his power to make him self completely whole, & yet we hear of no objection to his coming in for his full proportion of Clarke & Gay's Stock, as in reason

and Justice he ought. No! we hear no objection upon this subject, if I had I would with equal firmness combat it. But yet every possible objection has been made to the other; you and every Man of Sense will judge with what reason or and Justice.

I wish to see you a few moments, if convenient, this afternoon, & shall be obliged if you will bring up your private accounts, when we will endeavour to settle it.

I am, Sir, Your unfortunate Friend

Thos Clarke

Roxbury 16 September 1793.

Hon John Read Esqr

Dear Sir, I have done myself the Ho: :nour to write You on the 7th & 14th of May, & on the 4th & 10th of June, on the subject of my Obligation; and I also had the Honour of addressing The Honble James Bowdoin Esqr on the 11th of June past, on the same subject. I know not what can be added on this occasion in explanation of it; but if You and Mr Bowdoin had the goodness, at once, to signify your readiness to relinquish your proportion, and nothing more

appeared to be necessary than to obtain the consent of Madam Bowdoin and Madam Tem :ple, or her Friend The Honble Judge Wendell. It was your opinion the Ladies would require Time to consider the subject; I have therefore waited patiently ever since for their determi :nation.

My real situation has been justly and truly stated; and it will occur to you, that I have an amiable Wife and seven innocent children, absolutely dependent on my exertions for a comfortable support and decent Education; and you know, My Friend, that by reason of weakness of Body, I am utterly unable to perform any hard manual Labour. My only resource therefore, (under a kind Providence,) is on the aid and support of my Friends; which, how- :ever, it is impossible for me to obtain while I remain clogged and shackled, and constantly liable to be called on.

If under these circumstances it can afford the least satisfaction to any one, I will suffer all that the Laws of my country can inflict, with examplary humility. — But I am sure I am, that humanity and benevolence which are justly considered as leading traits in

in the American character, would revolt at the idea of leveling a Man with the dust, whose principles and conduct, both in Publick and private life (though far from being free from errors,) has been uniform, consistant, and inoffensive.

I chearfully submit these ideas to your serious consideration; and I flatter myself you will have the goodness to make such representation to the very amiable Ladies concerned, as you shall judge most Justable to the circumstances and occasion.

I am, Sir, with great regard & Esteem
Your obedient Servant
Sho Clarke

P.S. I shall be greatly obliged, if you will be so good to enquire of Major Kimball of Harvard, when he arrives, if he has any Letters from my little Son, and if so, take the trouble to forward them to me.

Roxbury 19 September 1793.

My Dear Son,

Your letter of the 10th instant was delivered to me by our good Friend, Madam Grosvenor, with which, and the Letters you wrote to your Mama and your uncle Alexander, I am pleased greatly: and I derive great satisfaction from the representation Madam Grosvenor has been pleased to make of your conduct and behaviour since you have been in her Family. You see by this, what an effect good conduct has among People of real Virtue and sensibility, and how you may ensure their affections and grow in their esteem: For a Youth to grow in favour as he grows in stature, must redound greatly to his honour, and occasion him the most agreeable reflections when he comes to take a retrospective view of it. My conduct towards you must, I think, have convinced you how much I have your welfare at heart; all the reward I claim from you, is, that you persevere in that path which Wisdom and Prudence point out as the safest and best. Virtue certainly carries its own reward with it: It ensures Health, Peace, Plenty, and every Earthly bless-

blessing; and, though it may be depressed for a time, it never fails to triumph at the last. The time will soon arrive when your mind will expand, and you will look forward to those active scenes in which, I presume, You will one day be able to act a part. For these you are now laying a foundation. What a golden opportunity you enjoy of acquiring Knowledge and information? If rightly improved, it will prove to you a Fund more valuable than Bank Stock, National Stock, or indeed any of those species of Property that are so much sought after by the craving part of the Community at the present day! Treasure it up then, and it will afford you more than com: :pound Interest. As you advance in life you will naturally form connections; in this, My Son, You cannot be too circumspect. To associate with our Friends is one very great blessing; but we ought to be extremely careful whom we choose for associates. If their only object appears to be a succession of pleasures, of pastime and amusements: If their amusements are not regulated by reason, and the rules of decorum, and their expences within proper bounds, such are dangerous companions, and ought to be avoided.

On the other hand, when you meet with those, the general tenor of whose conduct, is under the government of reason; who are constantly actuated by Honour and Integrity; who are wise and considerate in all they do; such are worthy of your esteem; you may safely con :fide in them, and value yourself upon their Society and Friendship.

You did perfectly right by requesting Madam Grosvenor to call at our House; your Mama, though then very ill, was extremely glad to wait on her. It would have been very agreeable if you had accompanied her on her Journey; but as your Revd Preceptor thought proper to direct otherwise (and he certainly knows best) I acquiesce in it. I was very sick the whole of the last week, but, thank Heaven! am tolerably recovered: your mama also is much better.

We are placed in a World that is constantly liable to change and disappointment. Empires, Kingdoms, and States, have rose to the degree of eminence allotted them, and then diminished to their original. The same may be applied to Families and individuals, and in fact to every object we behold, as Shakespeare has elegantly expressed it in the following lines.

"The

"The cloud wrapt Tow'rs, the gorgeous Palaces,
The solemn Temples, this great Globe itself,
Yea all who it inherit, shall dissolve,
And like the baseless Fabrick of a Vision,
Leave not a wreck behind."

Be careful to express yourself very affectionately to Your Revd Preceptor when he returns; and also present to him my respectful compliments.

I am, my son, very affectionately Yours.

Tho Clarke

Mr Samuel Burrill

September 24. 1793.

Sir, As you have omited to notify me as you proposed on Saturday last, give me leave to remind you, that this morning is the last you named for the purpose of attending to settle with me: If the Gentleman you named cannot attend, let that be no barr in the way, bring any other whom you please, and I will engage to convince both you and him, in the Space of one quarter of an hour, of the Truth of my assertions. You profess to be a Man of honour and Integrity, let me hope you will do honour to both on this occasion.

I am, Sir, your well wisher

Tho Clarke

September 24. 1793

Joseph Ruggles Esqr.

Sir, Agreeable to your desire I have made the calculations on Mr Enoch Hide's and Mr I. B. Palmer's Notes, and should be happy were it in my power to call on them respectively, and obtain a renewal of the obligations: But you are sensible I have no Horse, nor do I know where I could obtain one for the purpose among the numbers I have heretofore, in that way, most chearfully obliged; and the State of my Health is such as puts out of my power to travel so far on foot. I therefore return the Notes, that you may avail yourself of the first opportunity that presents to carry your views into effect. I am, Sir, your real friend

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 25 September 1793.

The President & Directors
of the Union Bank.

Gentlemen,

When the institution of the Union Bank was first contemplated, I became a Subscriber for Seventeen Shares; and, at the commencement of the Misfortunes I have recently experienced, I appropriated them in part to discharge a Debt due to William Hyslop Esqr, and deposited the Scrip with Mr John Lowell Junior for that purpose; but being informed that, by the rules and regulations of the Bank, they have become forfeit, in consequence of neglect, I conceive no one can legally become benefited by them. Under these circumstances, Gentlemen, I beg leave to suggest to you, the Justice and propriety of your conceding that the Value of those Shares may be passed to the Credit of a Note now due from Mr Jacob Davis, for two hundred Dollars, for which he became responsible on account of the late Company of Clarke & Gay. I do not claim it as a right, but ask it as a favour. On your part, therefore, it will be an instance of true magnanimity towards an unfortunate fellow Citizen. I would cheerfully have

done myself the honour of waiting on you in person, but am prevented by indisposition. I am, Gentlemen, with all due respect, your most obedient & humble Servant.

Sho Clarke

September 25. 1793.

Joseph Ruggles Esqr.

Sir, By reason of indisposition, I have been ~~totally~~ unable to go from home for several weeks past; nor have I at this day a well person in my family. under these uncomfortable circumstances, I take leave to inclose a counterpart of a Lease, executed by yourself and others, on the first Day of april last, regularly discharged; and shall be much obliged by the amount (if convenient) in order to procure a few indispensible necessaries, ~~for the comfort of life of~~ ~~my family at this time~~. ~~The Creditors of the late Company of Clarke & Gay cannot be in the smallest degree affected by it, as the amount has been some time since charged to Joel Gay, by the Assignees. I have also a Demand on the Bank for seventeen Shares, which I assigned to Mr John Lowell Junior, as Trustee for the benefit of my Creditors, and have no property whatever in them~~. I am, Sir, Your Friend & Servt

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 26 September 1793.

Joseph Anthony Esqr.

Dear Sir,

I intended to have done myself the honour of waiting on you yesterday with my young Friend Mr Gay, but was prevented by indisposition. — It is with great concern that I am acquainted with the heavy stroke you have met, in the Death of your Son, since you left Philadelphia; and I most sincerely sympathize with you on account of the melancholy event.

A Gentleman less candid and easy of access than I believe Mr Anthony to be, would perhaps, think it singular in a stranger to communicate his sentiments with such freedom and unreservedness. It is, however, natural to me to be frank and open; and, if in your opinion, it needs an apology, I am persuaded your generosity and goodness will suggest all that may be necessary on the present occasion.

In consiquence of the loss you have sustained, you will, I conceive, have occasion for assistance in your extensive business. and in consideration of the very generous and polite attentions me and my Friend Gay have experienced from you, I have entertained

serious thoughts of offering myself to your consideration for that purpose.

I am, indeed, a truly unfortunate Man. In early life I was introduced, by the voluntary suffrages of my fellow citizens, into Public Business: as captivating an employment as can fall to the lott of human nature. Twelve years I pursued my duty with unabating ardour, through various vicissitudes of prosperous and adverse Fortune; and, during a scene as interesting to America, as, perhaps, was ever exhibited. Jealousy, discord, animosity, and even open Rebellion took place and prevailed; to extinguish which was my primary aim, totally regardless of my own private concerns. In the mean time my private Interest was going to wreck: more than £1700. I lost by bad Debts and shear misfortune! all this took place when, by the Integrity and disinterestedness of my conduct, I had so far established myself, that I could obtain any loan within the bounds of reason. — under these circumstances, I formed a connection with my young Friend Gay, in which I should undoubtedly have succeeded, had it not been for the adverse events of the last year. Those put a fatal stop to our plans, and involved us in perplexity. I have often heard it

assented," that Ingratitude is a predominant vice in a Republican Government." But I never could believe it, untill melancholy experience tended to convince me of its reality. But even this consideration could in no degree affect me, were it not that a truly amiable Wife & seven Innocent children are sharers with me in misfortunes, which no human wisdom or forethought could have effectually guarded against, or prevented.

This, Sir, is my true situation.

Under those circumstances, my Friend, if I could render you any acceptable Service, and be beneficial to myself, I would chearfully travel to Philadelphia, and engage in Business under your patronage. as, however, I only suggest the plan, for your consideration, I think it unnecessary to be more particular; if it should meet your approbation, I have a Friend whose support (if it should be necessary) I can rely on; and I may hereafter be more explicit. I beg you, my Dear Sir, to consider these hints which I do myself the honour to communicate in confidence, and favour me with your opinion upon them, if convenient, before your departure. I am, Sir, with profound Respect, Your obt. hble Servant

Tho Clarke

P.S. I have never yet attempted to do business in any other line than that of a plain mechanic; but I flatter myself I shall be able, by assiduity and close attention, to give tolerable satisfaction. Of this, however, Mr Anthony may be able to form some opinion, by the communications I have heretofore done myself the pleasure of making to him. I have a little Son who is now studying with a Preceptor in the Country, whom I design for the same employment: I should engage at Philadelphia, and I can, at a proper time, find sufficient employment for this Son, it would be doubly satisfactory.

Boxbury 28 September 1793.

Mr William Little

Dear Sir, I received this morning the agreement you sent me relative to the widening Lynn Street in the Town of Boston, and the directions of the Town consequent thereon; and will attend to the Business therein assigned when it shall be most agreeable and convenient to the Selectmen, to the other Gentlemen of the Committee, and the other Persons interested, of which I request to be informed. I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem,

Your obedient hble servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 28 September 1793.

Mr John Davis,

Dear Sir, To my great satisfaction, yesterday in searching a Green Desk, which I have used but very little for several years, I found Peter Bridgham's Notes, and embrace the earliest opportunity to send them to you. I am truly happy in this event, in the first place because I know it will be pleasing to him, and in the next, because I have heretofore felt a little sanguine in an opinion, that I did not bring them home. I know, My Friend, when you consider the multitude of Papers that I have necessarily possessed, and the Business that has gone through my hands, it will appologize for the misfortune, I am, Sir, with great regard & Esteem, Your Obedient Servt

Jno Clarke

Roxbury 28 September 1793.

Joseph Anthony Esqr

Dear Sir, I have had the honour of receiving, from Mr Gay, your very polite and obliging favour of this day's date, in reply to the Letter I did myself the pleasure of addressing to you on the 26th instant. and I now beg leave to tender you my sincere acknowledgments for your kind "wish that you could see any way open in which you could be serviceable to me," and "for my future establishment in some comfortable way."

By the contents of your Letter, however, I am led to apprehend, that either I was not sufficiently explicit, or that you have mis-conceived the idea's I wished to communicate. The plans you have proposed to adopt, relative to yourself, are certainly natural, wise, and judicious; and such as most Gentlemen who had passed through the active Scenes of business you have "at your advanced stage of life," would choose. Nor could the idea's I had contemplated in the least degree militate with that System. For how, Sir, could it be possible for a Man, who had frankly represented his own situation as deplorable, in consequence of having devoted twelve years of his life to the Service of his Country, who acknowledged himself unacquainted with Mercantile

affairs, and to have been otherwise very unfortunate (all of which are plainly expressed or implied in my letter), to have had in view a connection of exterior as you seem to suppose? Such a proposition, to a Gentleman of Mr Anthony's character, his justly acknowledged abilities, large property, and extensive business, would have been highly preposterous, unbecoming, and indecent in any case, and especially so in a stranger as I am to you. So far from this, I am with great Truth assure you, my only aim was, if in consequence of the calamitous sickness that prevails in Philadelphia, the Deaths and unavoidable derangements consiquent thereon, I could, by the favour of my Friend, obtain any business congenial to my feelings and inclination, that would prove beneficial to myself, and a Virtuous Family, whom I most tenderly love, I would chearfully engage in it.

I conceived it a duty, Sir, that I owed to you, and to myself, to offer you this elucidation. If the proposition had met your approbation, and I could have been assured of your patronage, I own, it would have been highly pleasing to me, and I should have left no laudable attempts

unessayed, to have given satisfaction, and hoped in that way to have established myself in Business, at a proper time, in your City, for which I have long had a desire and inclination; but as you have judged otherwise, I must acquiesce in it. I am, Sir, with lively sentiments of esteem and regard,

Your obedient and very Humble servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 2d octobr 1793

Honble John Read Esqr

Dear Sir Pardon me for adverting this evening to a most unfortunate event. It is Human nature; and my agitation of mind arises from a consideration of the alacrity, constancy, and zeal, with which I served the Town for a number of years, and through painful and trying Scenes. From a retro: :spective view of the derangment of its Pru: :dentials, and the aid I contributed, and the pains I took to restore order, and render the Records respectable. After a Scene thus honorary, to be laid prostrate beneath the meanest character in the Town, and by means wholly without a precedent, occasions Sensations that my soul cannot endure. But, my Friend, I acquit you of having a design to wound my feelings, be: :cause you have declared you had not: and I most sincerely wish I could bury it in perpetual oblivion.

I return you, Sir, my sincere Thanks, for the trouble you have been so good to take, in endeavouring to exone: :rate me from the Obligation of mine in

your profession. I will, when it can with propriety take place, be a cordial to my mind, and the mind of a virtuous, tho' unfortunate Family.

Permit me to offer you my hearty congratulations, on your election to a Seat in the first Branch of the Legis: :lature. That you may long continue an Ornament to the Senate, and a Blessing to Society, is the wish of Dear Sir, Your most Obedient and very Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3 October 1793.

Mr Samuel Burrill,

Sir When you parted with me a few days since, you proposed "to make some calculations," and see me the next Day, but have omitted it ever since. Is it not extremely hard, that although I have been held responsible for now more than ten years; have had five Law Suits commenced against me; have been compelled to pay large Sums of Money, spend considerable Time, and suffered extremely in my Reputation, that you will not even acknowledge my Demand. If all this is not hard and cruell, to a Friend who has thus suffered, and who has even "desired you to bring any Person whom you please to liquidate the account," then I will confess myself a total Stranger to Honour, Justice and Gratitude, all of which you profess to the highest degree. I leave these considerations to you to reflect upon at your leisure. At present I am constrained to consider myself your much injured Friend.

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 3d October 1793.

My Dear Son,

Madam Grosvenor being on her Journey home, affords me an opportunity of sending you a line or two. My last letter of the 19th of September, I hope has reached you. On this occasion therefore, I need only acquaint you, that for some time past, almost every person in the Family have been sick; me, your Mama and Sally, have been much so; but I hope we are all better. They all desire a particular remembrance in this Letter. As the autumn is advancing you will, I am persuaded, have frequent opportunities of writing, which I hope you will carefully improve. By Madam Grosvenor, I send you some Paper, all the Quills I can spare, and the Aphorisms of Lavater, an excellent Book, that deserves the highest commendation: Take proper care of it, it will afford you amusement & Instruction. I am, my Son, your affectionate Friend

Tho. Clarke

October 8. 1793. Died that eminent Patriot His Excellency John Hancock Esqr. Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. AE. 57. His Funeral was attended with every mark of Honour & respect, on Monday Octr 14.

October 8. 1793. Wrote to Mr Samuel Wait requesting him to pay me £5..14..0 I'd he received on my account on april 12. past on account of the Cloth manufacture, Watertown Deducting 6/ received from him 3d June past.

Roxbury 10 October 1793.

Mr H. C. F. Delapomier,

Sir I have maturely considered the application You made to me a few days since, in behalf of your friend the French Gentleman, and am now ready to give you a definitive answer. It appears to me impracticable for them to be accommodated with the end of the House only; and to Cook, and do other indispensible businss in such a room will unavoidably injure it. I therefore propose, that he shall have the lower room, Chamber, free egress and regress through the front door, entry and stair case; a privilidge of cooking in the Kitchen, and of laying

wood in the Yard; also of improving a part of the Cellar, with a right of passing, at all seasonable times, for the term of six months, to commence on Saturday next the 12 Day of October current, for the consideration of Fifty Dollars, one half to be paid immediately, and the other at the expiration of said term. I am, Sir, your obt Servant

Tho Clarke

October 11. 1793.

Mr B. Salembeni

Sir, It is the custom of this County to execute Leases of Tenaments prior to giving possession thereof: I inclose you a draft for your perusal; if you shall approve of them, I will attend at any hour you please for the purpose of compleating them. with lively sentiments of Esteem,

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 12 October 1793.

Major Moses White

Sir as I have hitherto not had the pleasure of seeing you when going to or returning from Boston, in order to the executing the Deeds you requested me to draw, I take leave to forward them herewith; you and Mrs White can execute them, perhaps, more conveniently at home, and your neighbour William Hunt Esqr will have the goodness to take the acknowledgments. If you will please to send them to me, I will do myself the pleasure to deliver them to your Brother. I am, Sir, with Respect, Your obedient Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 12 October 1793.

Capt. Joseph Williams

Sir I have several Months since drawn the Deed you desired for Mrs Dudley, in which I have endeavoured to convey all the ideas you wished inserted in it; I take leave to transmit it herewith, and hope it will meet your & Mrs Dudley's approbation; if otherwise, I will chearfully attend it. I am, Sir, your Obt Servt

Tho Clarke

No. 1.

Roxbury 14 October 1793.

The Selectmen of Roxbury

Respected Gentlemen,

You will remember that in the Month of March 1781, I was choosen a Collector of Public Taxes, and from the 20 Day of June to the 5, Day of December inclusive, I had committed to me, in eight Separate lists, no less than £4614:16:2 3/4; an enormous Sum, if it is considered that the estate was assessed on one Parish only, consisting at the time, of but about 240 rateable Polls; and, that many of the

Citizens were then suffering by means of the heavy losses they sustained in the Year 1775; and struggling under an accumulated load of Taxes which had been laid upon them in the course of several Years immediately preceding.

But notwithstanding these discouraging circumstances, it is but Justice to say, the Citizens of the Town in general, exerted themselves with a zeal and constancy, that would have done Honour to those of ancient Sparta or Rome, when contending for their most invaluable Rights. There were, however (as is reasonable to expect), many deficiencies, occasioned principally, I believe, by real inability to combat such burthens as the exigencies of the Community rendered indispensible; and at the same time provide for the comfortable support of their families.

Among these I have selected a few only, who have never paid their proportion, though I have done all in my power to enforce it without adopting the hard alternative of committing to Prison; a measure I presume to say, utterly repugnant to the

Humanity and Feelings of the Town in general.

As the Laws have constituted you the sole Judges of the Justice and propriety of making an equitable abatement, I take leave to submit the list to your consideration. And I will only subjoin a few reasons which I conceive cannot fail to convince you of both.

1. That notwithstanding the difficulties I have adverted to, which I am persuaded are still recent in every Gentleman's mind, I am confident it will be obvious, from the Documents herewith exhibited, that I discharged myself honourably, by paying every shilling in season.

2. The Records before you will, I trust, at once convince you, that all the abatements I have ever received, will not exceed one half the amount abated to other collectors from the commencement of the year 1781, to the present Day, taking the sums committed to each into a comparative view; and I believe your Honourable Chairman and Mr Davis, with whom I have long had the honour of serving at your Board, will do me the Justice to say,

that I have always been modeft upon
Subjects of this kind as they reſpected myſelf.

3. When I firſt entered on the buſineſs
of the Town, my circumſtances might, with
propriety be conſidered eligible. I then
owned the Lands and Buildings between the
Roads, which I afterwards ſold for £360.
beſide the Garden where I now live which
coſt me about £250, exclusive of Build-
:ings; and, for 4 or 5 Years preceeding I
had manufactured nearly 4,000 Skins a
year, on an average; conſiquently I muſt
have poſſeſſed a very valuable Stock. —
Oppoſed to this I owed the following Sums
only. Viz:-

To Mr Amos Smith	£18.13:4
Mr James Howe	50.0:0
Nathaniel Ruggles Engr	50.0:0
Mr John Stack	285:0:0
Hon John Read Engr	140:0:0
Total	£533:13:4

A Sum to which the Stock I then poſſeſſed
was more than competant, independant of a
number of valuable Debts; I muſt therefore
have been worth, at the time of which I am
ſpeaking, about £1,000, clear of every
Demand; all of which has been wholly
abſorbed during the twelve Years laſt paſt

that I have devoted principally to the ſervice
of the Town. *

4. It will occur to every Gentleman of
experience and obſervation, that in the
collection of ſuch a vaſt Sum of Money,
there muſt of conſiquence be conſiderable
draggs; and it is both juſt to mention, that
at this period, and for ſeveral Years ſub
:ſiquent to it, the ſtate of the Public fi
:nances were ſuch, and the Demands up
:on the Government ſo numerous and
preſſing, that they were obliged to antici
:pate all their reſources by drawing or
:ders on the great number of collectors
through the Commonwealth.

5. In one ſingle inſtance only I expe
:rienced a moſt unfortunate and heavy
loſs. In the Month of April 1783, I aſſum
:ed a large order drawn in favour of my
friend Joſeph Ruggles Engr, and gave
him my promiſſary Note for the amount
(deducting 5 per cent only for the riſque
of Depreciation): This Note I could not
take up for want of the means. In the
Month of January (if I miſtake not) 1785,
at Mr Ruggles's requeſt, I renewed the
Note and gave one in lieu of it payа-

payable to Henry Champion Junr Esqr of Colchester in the State of Connecticut for £530. On this Obligation (though I am morally certain I never realized from the arrears of Taxes on which it was bottomed more than £250), I have paid at several periods £710. 2/8. as will appear by the papers accompanying this Letter. Were it necessary I could give you several other instances of the same kind, by which I have been materially injured; but I trust this with the Facts and reasonings I have adduced, will serve to convince You what hardships I have experienced, and the anxiety of mind that has resulted in consequence.

I might here detail the great losses I have met by bad Debts; by becoming responsible for others, and in several other ways; but as I by no means wish to excite your Humanity or wound your feelings, I forbear; the World will know them at a future Day; and every reflecting mind will make its own comments.

On your Justice and Impar-

Impartiality I rely! on those immutable principles, and everlasting Rules of Equity, I depend on this occasion. Those I am assured, from the knowledge I have of your characters, cannot fail properly to influence your conduct towards an unfortunate Friend and Fellow Citizen, who is, with all due respect, your obedient Servant

Jho Clarke

✻ I am not insensible that its a delicate Subject for a Man to speak of himself; however, considering that TRUTH is the same in all ages and Countries, by whomsoever spoken, I will here take leave to mention a few circumstantial Facts by which I conceive the Town to have been materially benefited.

A few years since Major Ruggles and me, with a view to facilitate a settlement of the long arrears of Taxes then due, for which the Collectors were hard pressed, purchased a piece of Land of the assignees of John Morey, by which, after keeping it several Years, we lost at least £20. including the interest of the Money; for we derived no kind of benefit from it.

In the Winter of 1787-8. the late Mr,

William Dindell disclosed to me his real situa
=tion relative to the Taxes committed to him
to collect in the Year 1782, by which it appeared
he was called on for more than £400. and all
he could possibly muster would not amount
to £200. under these circumstances, I under
=took, and, by an exertion effectually relie
=ved him, by taking on myself a great respon
=sibility. I was indeed fortunate in obtaining the neces
=sary orders without loss; but such was the
fluctuating state of them, that had the settlement
been delayed but 2 or 3. months only, it is
highly probable the Town must have sus
=tained an heavy loss in consiquence.

From the Month of May 1784 to the
year 1787, I received, partly for Cash actually
advanced, partly for services performed, and
partly for Taxes, between 3 & 400 Dollars in
Town orders, on which I lost more than 3
years Interest, though I was compelled by
hard necessity, to pay Interest for at least
five times that sum for which I had become
responsible on account of the Town.

During the ten Years that I have
had the honour of serving the Town as a
Selectman and Assessor, I have spent about
one twelfth part of my time, for the whole
of which I received about £50. exclusive
of actual expences; a sum which, (from

my local situation, the numbers of depressed
Persons almost constantly calling on me,
and the unavoidable expences I was subject
=ed to (and I believe no one will accuse me
of want of attention to the Gentlemen who
honoured me with their company and Friend
=ship) I annually spent. — and during the
seven years that I served as Town Clerk,
I received £63. together with a small addition
once for 12 Days I spent in sorting, marking
and filing the papers, and about 30/ for
Stationary necessarily expended; It was
however, all I requested.

From these FACTS every Gentleman
will be competant to Judge, whether I
have not rendered essential services to
the Town, and from the most disinterested
motives. — Whether the business devolved
on me, was performed with propriety, faith
=fulness and promptitude; the fairness &
respectability of the Records themselves
are the best vouchers I wish to adduce on this
occasion. And every impartial Gentleman
will be able to Judge what has become of
my property; accumulated by exertions to
which the debility of my Body was wholly
in=

incompetant, by reason of two Ruptures I met with in early life, which have increased ever since.

I might add in this place (if it was necessary) several instances by which the Town have acquired considerable Property (if it will not be deemed arrogant and assuming in me, I would say) by my attention. more than 20 years prior to 1791, we have constantly supported one or more Persons, properly paupers of the Commonwealth: To remedy this, those Gentlemen of the Board of Selectmen with whom I have had the great pleasure of being associated know I suggested the reasonableness & propriety of the plan, and actually carried it into effect.

But I trust the Gentlemen to whom I address this Letter, are too well informed, too equitable, impartial and magnanimous, to need explanations of FACTS so notorious and uncontrovertable. I mention them in this note merely to bring them to their recollection; and I trust, I may safely confide them to their Justice, Honour and Candour; and through them to that of every private citizen, if they shall judge it expedient. ———

P.S. The papers which accompany this Letter can be of no importance to any one except myself, I request, therefore, when the Gentlemen have perused them, they will have the goodness to return them to me.

It is possible that some part of the sums I have stated to be due may have been abated, though I am not conscious of it; if however this is the case, it may easily be discovered, and the list corrected.

Friday Evening October 18th. Mr. Stephen Williams, Town Clerk, delivered me the following verbal message from the Selectmen. "That they had received my letter of the 14th instant, which, on account of other business, they had not time to consider; that they proposed to meet at Mr Burrill's next monday three weeks, (11th Day of November next), at which time and place they wished my attendance, when they would hear me upon the subject matter thereof; and were disposed to do what was right."

Roxbury 23 October 1793.

Mr Stephen Williams Junr, Town Clerk

Dear Sir,

I request to be favoured with an attested Copy of my resignation, and the proceedings of the Town thereon, on the 4th Day of March last. As I expect to have occasion to communicate this, with some other authentick Documents, that may tend to refute some groundless aspersions propogated by either the ignorant or designing, to the Public, You will see the propriety of introducing it "At a meeting of the Free holders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Roxbury &c." I am, Sir,

Your Friend & Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 23 October 1793

My Dear Son, your Letter of the 20th instant was handed to me this morning by the Revd Mr Emerson. I am always happy in receiving any communication from you while you are at a distance from me; but I should be much better pleased, if in your Letters you would mention the date & receipt of mine you may have received of a prior date, and not noticed before. I wrote you on the 19th Sept and 3d instant, and am now at a loss whether either of them (especially the former), ever reached you. You may depend upon it that our Mama and me were very happy to see Madam Grosvenor at our House; to whom you will, on receipt of this Letter, present our respectful compliments. Miss Eliza's Handkerchief has been taken care of, and will be forwarded herewith. You seem to have anticipated an idea of making us a visit at Thanksgiving; this indeed would be agreeable; but as the Journey would be uncomfortable to you, and attended with expence, I think it would be better to defer coming untill January, when it is probable you can come in a Sleigh with less expence, and more pleasure. Your Revd Preceptor will acquaint you with the State of the Family.

Your affectionate Parent Tho Clarke

The following Letter being omited at the Time is here inserted merely to preserve it.

Roxbury 2 January 1793

Mr Aaron Davis Junior
Clerk of the Fire Society.

Dear Sir, As regard to the state of my Health which has been impaired by many Public avo: cations in the course of a few years past, with other local considerations, have determined me to vacate my place as a member of the Fire Society, as well as other Public connecti: ons. I intended to have done myself the honor of communicating my intentions to the Society personally, this evening, but the state of my Family occasioned by the recent Death of my aged and much honored Friend Mrs Williams, prevents it. I must request the favour, Sir, that You will have the goodness to communicate my intentions to the Society, and assure them of my profound and respectful attachment. It is, I believe, required by the Articles, that the Buckets and Bags shall be returned at the original value, tho' I know of no instance where it has been observed. If it should not be disagree: able to the Gentlemen, I should wish to re: tain mine.

With Sentiments of respect & Esteem,
I am, Sir, your obedient Servant.

Thos Clarke

Roxbury 30 October 1793.

My Dear Son,

My Letter of the 23d instant will have informed you of my sentiments rela: tive to your making us a visit at the ensuing Thanksgiving, in which, I am per: suaded, you will cheerfully acquiesce; in the first place because it is reasonable, and in the second, because I recommend it. For however pleasing and agreeable it would be to see and converse with you, on an occasion so agreeable, if the trou: ble and expence of attaining that object should appear to outweigh the pleasure, every reasonable consideration ought to preponderate in favour of omitting it to a more fit opportunity.

By the bearer here of you will receive a pair of new Trowsers for Win: ter, made by your Mama; I also send

a Cagg of Pains, which, I dare Say will afford an agreeable repast for you, your mate and Friends.

This part of the Town have experienced a considerable loss by the Death of Master Michael McDonold, a Man who, though highly imprudent in some instances, was, upon the whole, a very capable, useful School Master; and as such his Death is much and justly regreted by all who value Learning.

The remains of Mrs Dawes, your Aunt Balch's intimate Friend, are to be intered this Day; by her Death Mr Dawes & his Family have justtained an irreparable loss! Her virtues were conspicuous, and rendered her justly esteemed by all who enjoyed the pleasure of her acquaintance. Your Mama is still unwell, but I hope is growing better: your Brothers, Sisters & Polley Croxford are in good Health. I heartily wish you an agreeable Thanksgiving, and hope you will live to enjoy many such. and am your affectionate Parent,

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 11 November 1793.

Mr Stephen Williams Junr
Town Clerk.

Dear Sir, I am much obliged by the very polite manner in which you was pleased to communicate the Message from the Selectmen, on the Evening of the 18th ultimo. I have duly considered it, and now take leave to inclose my reply, which, I flatter myself you will have the goodness to communicate to the Gentlemen this Day. I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem and respect,

Your very humble Servant

Tho Clarke

See the following letter from page 206 to page 215 inclusive.

The
Hon.ble John Read Esqr
Mr John Davis
Mr Jacob Weld
Mr Ebenezer Seaver &
Mr John Williams Junr } Selectmen of the Town of Roxbury.

Respected Gentlemen,

On Fryday evening the 18th of october past, I had the honour of receiving, by Mr Stephen Williams Junr, Town Clerke, the following polite and obliging verbal message, Viz.t.
"That you had received my letter of the 14 instant, which, on account of other business, you had not time to consider; that you proposed meeting at Mr Burrill's (the then) next Monday three weeks, at which Time and Place, you wished my attendance, when you would hear me upon the Subject matter thereof; and, that you were disposed to do what was right."

Permit me, Gentlemen, to offer you my Sincere Thanks, for the candour and Impartiality you discover upon this occasion; and to bespeak your attention to a few remarks in elucidation of the several parts of my letter to which you

refer, in order to obviate any seeming difficulty that may appear in the way of your doing me Justice.

My having served in the Office of Collector, and the several Sums committed to me, are all matters of Record; it would therefore, be an unnecessary waste of Time to add more upon that Subject; and the magnanimous exertions of by far the greater part of the citizens of the Town, through those trying Scenes to which I have alluded, are I trust, still recent in every Gentlemans mind who took an active part in them; and they will, I am perswaded, be transmited to Posterity, by some abler pen, with every mark of honour and respect that is due to distinguished merit.

That among so many citizens, who were assessed such large Sums, to support the common cause of their Country, when invaded by numerous and powerful Enemies, there should be some, who, by means of misfortunes or perhaps mis-conduct, should fail of discharging

:ing their proposition, is not surprizing: Indeed daily experience and observation tends to confirm the disagreeable Truth beyond a doubt. If this Fact be admitted, two Questions necessarily result in regard to the Case under consideration.

First. Whether an individual, on whom is devolved the Task of collecting and accounting for the Monies, should sustain the loss of unavoidable deficiencies? and

Secondly. Whether a diffidence in the same Individual, while he was himself one of the Judges of the Justice and reasonableness of his own case, in not applying for abatements in due season, ought to operate to his disadvantage?

To each of those Queries I propose to make a short reply. —— The Laws of the Land to which every good Citizen, will from principle, pay the highest regard, has provided in the first instance, "That every Town shall be held responsible for the delinquency of its own Citizens." It has also prescribed bounds which a collector may not pass. "Beasts of the plow, Arms, Farming Utensils, the Tools

of Mechanicks, and House hold Furni:ture necessary for upholding life." cannot be taken; and if the delinquent is commited to Prison, he is allowed the same prevelidge of swearing out as if he was commited upon any other civil process; saving only, that in case of the Death of the Person assess:ed, the Taxes due to the Public shall be paid in Full, in preference to any private Demand. Hence ap:pears the propriety of constituting the Assessors in the respective Towns the sole Judges of all abatements to be made to Collectors; for which their local situation and knowledge of the ability and circumstances of individuals, render them complete:ly competant: and it, at the same time shews the Wisdom, moderation, and equity of a Republican Govern:ment, and reflects honour on hu:mane nature. From those premi:ses it is reasonable to conclude, That

that it never was or could be intended, an individual who had done his duty, should ultimately be a sufferer; nor indeed, is it possible, fairly and honourably to make him so.

To the second query, the several subsequent remarks in my letter of the 14th of October was intended to apply. On this occasion therefore, I need only observe, that if my omitting to apply argues any thing, it is obviously in favour of my present application. A Man of true sensibility and modesty will always avoid, as much as possible, judging in any case in which he feels interested; nor will he, by any sinister conduct whatever, incur the imputation of exerting an influence, (and much less an undue one) to obtain any thing for himself.

These principles have restrained me from submitting a consideration of the heavy and repeated losses I have suffered to the Selectmen while I had the honour of sustaining that character myself. — But, Gentlemen, if precedents are necessary to this parish, the Records before you are replete with examples

to my purpose: you will there find that abatements have been made more than twenty years subsequent to the date of the Taxes, and in some extreme hard cases too.

The reasons I have adduced are found:ed on Facts, some of which are within your own knowledge and recollection, and others are supported by well attested vouchers that have been exhibited to you:— and I believe I may safely aver, that more than three fourths of all the Demands which have existed against me for ten years past, and which have recently occasioned so much anxiety and concern to me and my Family, have been accu:mulated in consequence of my con:nection with the Town. To enter minutely into all the particulars would be a work of time, and is foreign to my purpose; I am desirous, therefore, of spare:ing you and myself the trouble on the present occasion. I have barely glanced at those which are most material, and leave you to Judge of others. — Con:scious as I am that those who have known my

my conduct from early life will not accuse me of squandering my property in scenes of Vice and Debauchery, I am persuaded those reasons will prove the position I have laid down; that my connection with the Town, in a time of peculiar difficulty, has proved extremely unfortunate and injurious to my private Interest. It is not on this account, however, that I either ask or expect a consideration: — My request is founded on the broad basis of common Justice! It is simply that I may be repaid those Monies I have been compelled, by hard necessity to pay for the Delinquency and inability of them others. From these remarks I conceive it will be obvious, that my neglecting to apply for abatements in common with others, in former years, ought not to operate at this time to my prejudice; but on the contrary, (as it discovers, I hope in a proper degree, sentiments of modesty and diffidence, when I was honored with an ample share of the confidence of my fellow citizens, and of the Gentlemen Selectmen

in particular, and, in consequence could have obtained any reasonable request,) that I shall now meet that attention which my representations, on a fair and candid investigation, shall appear to merit.

On your part, Gentlemen, this is all I desire. If it shall appear to you, that I have received the Monies applied for, you ought in faithfulness to the Town, to reject my request; but if on the other hand, it shall appear (as I presume it will) that I have been obliged to pay what I never received, and, that thereby I have been extremely injured, I have the firm confidence, that you will think proper to order me such payment, as you shall judge equitable.

Before I conclude, Gentlemen, suffer me to advert to an ungenerous aspersion, that has been thrown out, with a view (as I have reason to believe,) to prejudice the Public mind, and you in particular, against me. Viz. — "That I had spent the Towns Money;" That I have promised payment in behalf of the Town;" and,

"That

." That the Town were obliged to levy new
assessments in consequence." —

So far from spending the Town's property,
I may safely declare, that if strict Justice
was now done me, instead of the Sums I have
exhibited for abatement, I ought to receive
more than an hundred Pounds for real
unavoidable losses. And as to my promising
any thing in behalf of the Town, (circumsta
:nced as I was, and avowedly determined,
more than twelve Months since, and
having publicly declared my intention,
to resign the Offices I had the honour of
sustaining into ables hands,) there could
be nothing more absurd! and that the
Town should be obliged to levy new
assessments in consequence, never can
gain any degree of credit among Gentlemen
of the least information.

Having, as I hope, with becoming
firmness, modesty and candour, adduced
such Truths and arguments as I conceived
necessary to support my claim, I submit
them to you in full confidence that
they will meet that attention they may

appear to merit. If you shall still judge
my personal attendance necessary, I
will with alacrity wait on You.

I have the honour to be,
with profound respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient, and
very humble servant,

Roxbury 11 Novr 1793. Sho Clarke

Roxbury 5 November 1793.

Thomas Williams Junr Esqr

Sir, You will receive herewith a num
:ber of Obligations and accounts, which
I request you to collect, if practicable.
I wish, however, that in the first instance
the respective Obligors may be notified
by Letter, except where I have noted
otherwise thereon; for which purpose
I forward a number of blanks. The
Note against my Brother I would on no
account have sued, if possible. I believe
he

he will be able to pay it in the course of a few Months; and you can hold up to view the necessity of his attending to it with great propriety. The Note against B. Cooper I received of McHeld for Taxes assessed in 1781, he ought therefore to endorse it, though I think, if the Monies are recovered, there will be a small ballance in his favour. That against W. Dorr must, I apprehend, be sued in the County where he lives, perhaps you can prevail on some Gentleman of your acquaintance there to take the trouble of it. D & J. Wd: Brooks Note, it is possible, may have been paid in full, though I have no recollection of it; if however, the ballance is still due, it is from John, who, if notified, will easily make it appear, should there be any just ground for my conjecture.

You are sensible that the Time will soon elapse in which all old obligations will become extinct; and

and it would be very unreasonable that me or my Creditors should be wronged where Debtors are able to make payment, and certainly no one can claim it with more Justice and propriety than I can: I am perswaded, therefore, that you will, from principle, do all in your power to recover these Demands.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 8 November 1793

John Williams Esqr. Deerfield. Regr Deeds

Sir, I wrote you on the 24th June last inclosing a Deed from a McHaing to Mr Giles Alexander Junr; requesting it might be recorded, and that you would be so good to inform me of its being in your Office; since which no information has been received relative to it. As Mr Wing took charge of the Deed and the letter, Mr Alexander has had some doubt whether it ever reached you; I beg

leave therefore to request that you will have the goodness to satisfy me in this particular by the first opportunity that offers. I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 8 November 1793

John Lowell Junr Esqr

Sir, I find on enquiry that the Seventeen Bank shares, the Evidence of which I deposited with you on the 6th of March last, have, according to the Rules and Regulations of the Bank, become forfeit, in consequence of their not being fulled up. It is obvious, therefore, that no one can legally avail themselves of them. Under these circumstances, and being desirous of possessing the Scrip, I beg leave to request that you will be so good to send it to me by my Friend Mr Giles Alexander Junr. I will endeavour to provide in some other way for the Stop to this amount. I am, Sir, with sentiments of Esteem and Respect,

Your Obt Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 8 Novr 1793

Samuel May Esqr

Dear Sir

Mr Whitemore has informed me that you have procured my Wood, and wish me to send for it. It is difficult this Day to procure a Team, but I will take it from the Wharfe immediately. I will thank you to reserve eight cords agreeable to what I requested on the 22d of October past, for which the ballance shall be paid immediately. I am, Sir,

Your Friend Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 18 Novr 1793

Mr Aaron Davis Junr

Sir, The Selectmen, to whom I exhibited a Demand against the Town, on the 14th ultimo, have, in pursuance of their duty, communicated to me their objections to it; in particular, that a petition of Deacon Fulton's, which was offered a few Years since, and rejected, was in the same predicament, which, I know to be a mistake, but which I wish to refute by a recurrence to the

Records in your possession, which are the only solid Documents on which we can or ought to rely. I request therefore, that you will be so obliging to favour me with an attested coppy of that Gentleman's account as a Col: =lector, from the Time the charge was first made untill the settlement was compleated.

I am truely sorry to give you this trouble, but am perswaded the peculiar circumstan: =ces alluded to, will, in a degree at least, appo =logize for it. I am, Sir, with sentiments of respect,

Your obedient humble Servant

This request was renewed in a Card. of Nov 22. 1793.

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 24. Novr. 1793.

Mr Josiah Cunningham,

Sir, Inclosed is your account which has stood open from May 18. 1787 to this Day: The bal: =lance is indeed but trifling, but it will be of some consiquence to me; and as the Time will elapse in a few Days in which all old accounts will become void, if unattended to, I am perswaded you will think proper to discharge it.

I am, Sir, your hble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 28 November 1793

William Hunt Esqr

Dear Sir, A Series of unfortunate Events that has attended me for a number of years past, have depressed me greatly, and ultimately occa= =sioned a truely melancholy Catastrophe, which ren =ders every small ballance due me an object; I have therefore, taken the liberty to annex your account from July 26. 1790 to this Day, and shall be much obliged by the ballance, when conve= =nient. Should you discover any errors, I will chearfully rectify them.

I have also to request, that you will have the goodness to inform me of the event of the several Demands I trans =mited in my Letter to you of the 14 of May, 3d & 24 of July last; by the first occasion that offers. I am, Sir, with sentiments of Respect,

Your obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 29 Novr 1793.

Mr Joseph Russell Junr

Sir The papers which accompany this have this moment come to hand from Arnold Welles Esqr. I take the earliest opportunity to transmit them to you; and have also desired the Man to call on Mr Blaney for the Books, which, if he obtains them, will also be delivered here with, and will wait on you the first Day my health will permit me to come into Boston: in the mean time I request you will have the goodness to conduct as you shall judge proper,

I am, Sir very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Tho Clarke

At the same time sent an order to Mr Blaney for the Books &c by the Wells's Man.

Roxbury 30 November 1793

Mr Aaron Blaney

Sir The inclosed discharge together with your assignment, which have been in the hands of Arnold Welles Esqr, ever since the 13th Day of August last, came to hand yester=day; I immediately transmitted the assign=ment to my Joseph Russell Junior, and requested Mr Welles's Man to call on you for the Books and Papers, that they might be delivered at the same time, which I hope he obtained; but if otherwise, give me leave to request they may be forwarded to that Gentleman immediately on your receiving this Letter.

It must be acknowledged, I think, that Mr Welles & Mr Russell have discover=ed, on this occasion, a great degree of true Humanity, magnanimity, and disinterest=edness towards you and your Family; and, persuaded you will be in sentiment with me, I beg permission to suggest the propriety of your communicateing to them respectively, your sense of their conduct, in such manner as you shall judge proper.

With singular pleasure I have been an Spectator of this long and uncomfortable

business; and, that it may prove a source of consolation to you and yours, and, that both may experience its salutary effects, is the ardent wishs of, Sir, your real friend and hearty well wisher.

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 30 November 1793

My Dear Son,

My Letter of the 30th ult, which will accompany this, will acquaint you among other things, of my purpose to send you a cagg of Pairs. They have been put up untill within a few days past, when they were opened, and found so defective as to make it useless and improper to send them. I am truely sorry for this disappointment; however, as it is unavoidable, we ought to acquiese in it, chearfully.

It gives me no inconsiderable concern, that the Autumn, which is so favourable for Traveling, and of course for conveying Letters from the various parts of the Country, has passed away without my receiving that regular and full account from you which I had fondly anticipated; more especially as I have been and still am, very desirous of observing what progress you are making, from time to time, in the several branches of Science you have engaged in.

There

There cannot be a greater and more agreeable source of pleasure to a Parent than to observe that his children have early imbibed principles of Justice, Honour, Probity, and every manly virtue; and that they are improving the morning of life well, by applying diligently to the study of those parts of Science which are calculated to render them useful and valuable members of Civil Society. This I hope and believe has been, and will still be, your constant endeavour, and the primary object of all your pursuits.

The revolutions that have already, and are constantly taking place; the Generations that have, and are passing away, one after another, are so many mementoes which ought to stimulate us to act our parts well on the Theatre of the World, while we are continued in it: — And it is on the virtues, the abilities, and good conduct of the rising generation, that the hopes and prospects of every Parent is or ought to be grounded; and it is on such characters, that the future prosperity, happiness and welfare of our Country essentially depends. Such a conduct in you, my Son, will not fail to introduce you into the World to

to great advantage; and to establish you in
business with Reputation; and what ought to be
an infinitely higher inducement, it will insure
you the favour and protection of that Being, who
is the supreme source of every blessing to his
boundless creation.

Your Mama and your Brother Samuel
have got poisoned with the shells of some West India
nuts; I hope, however, they are both growing better.
The other members of the Family enjoy a good
measure of Health; and they all desire me to
give their Love to you, and you will accept
the same from your affectionate Parent, and
hearty well wisher.

Sho Clarke

P.S. Present my respects to your Revd Preceptor,
Madam Grosvenor, the Young Ladies, and your
Friend Sparhawk. Should there come a turn
of Sleighing a day or two before Christmas,
and your Revd Preceptor pleases to permit
you to get a cast to Roxbury or Boston, and
tarry a few Days, I will endeavour to carry
you home, and invite your mama to ride
to Harvard to see your situation.

Roxbury 2d December 1793.

Mr Moses Davis

Sir, You have my Note of 28 of April
1786, for £6-18-1, which peculiar misfortunes
have prevented me from redeeming: the
amount at this day, calculating compound
Interest, which I conceive to be just and rea
=sonable, is £10-14-6; for this sum I inclose a
new Note, leaving a blank for you to fill
as you shall judge proper, relative to the
time of payment. Should my Friends think
proper to permit me to enter on business,
and I should be prospered in it, you may be
assured I shall make this Demand one of the
first objects of my attention. I request your
acceptance of my thanks, Sir, for your goodness
in not calling on me in a legal way, prior
to the expiration of the act of limitation. —
Happy would it have been for me, for my
Innocent, and, I trust, virtuous Family, and I
may add, for all who hold Demands against
me, had they discovered an equal degree of
moderation, candour, and generosity! I might
long since have commenced a new System
of Business with Reputation; and with
a moral probability at least, of extinguishing
every Obligation within a reasonable time: but

but alass! some mistaken policy has hitherto prevailed over the dictates of reason, and the Laws of Humanity: when this will subside I know not, but am determined to await the event with resignation & Fortitude.

The inclosed Note given by yourself, Mr Williams & Mr Hide, was paid several years since by the Town; I have recently found it among my papers, and embrace this occasion to forward it to you; and you will be so good to reserve my old Note of April 28. 1786, and I will call on you for it.

I am, Sir, with grateful sentiments of esteem,
Your obedient humble Servant
Tho Clarke

No 3. Roxbury 6 December 1793

Mr John Williams Junr

Sir, The candour and impartiality which you profess on all occasions (and I believe truly) towards the sons of Misfortune, induces me to commit the inclosed address to the Gentlemen Selectmen, to your patronage; and I beg the favour, Sir, that you will be so good to communicate it to that very respectable Body the first opportunity. I am, Sir, with lively sentiments of Esteem, your most obedient, and humble Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 6 December 1793.

The Honble John Read Esqr
Mr John Davis
Mr Jacob Wild
Mr Ebenezer Seaver &
Mr John Williams Junr
} Selectmen of the Town of Roxbury.

Respected Gentlemen,

I consider it a peculiar happiness, that we are placed in a Land of light, and where the true principles of equal Freedom are as clearly understood and as universally practiced, as in any part of the known World: and where every Man, whether in affluent or adverse circumstances, has a Right, in a Manly, decent and becoming manner, to address himself to the most exalted characters; lay before them the wrongs he feels, and claim their Justice and protection.

In addressing myself to you, I have, and still feel, all that diffidence which your exalted stations, as the Guardians of the praveledges and Property of an highly respected corporation; a proper sense of your superior abilities, Learning and experience, could inspire. But considering myself called on to reply to the several questions, opinions, and determinations, which you was pleased to suggest, in the course of the conversation with which you honoured me, on Monday the 11th ultimo, I must beseak your indulgence for a few moments, while I State them, and make as brief an answer to each as possible, taking them in the order in which they were respectively communicated

1st

1st "That my application of the 14th of october last had got air; and, that Deacon Hatton, among others, had made objections to it, supposing that his application, made a few years since, and rejected, was in the same predicament."

2d "What did I pay for the amount of the order in my favour, of the 14th of February 1782, for £679 - 15 - 10?"

3d "Why did I pay New Emission, paper Money into the Town Treasury, and what did it cost me?"

4th "That you have a Right to make Precedents."

5th "That you had determined to lay my case before the Town."

It will occur to you, Gentlemen, that I have not access to the public records, and that I must in consequence, rely much upon memory in the statement of Facts; If therefore, I should be inaccurate in any particulars, you will, I am persuaded, not only pardon any little inaccuracy, but afford me that information which may be necessary to illustrate my subject, and set it in a proper point of view, when you shall think proper to submit it to the consideration of the Town. In confidence of this I venture to proceed.

1st "That an application like mine "should get air" or in other words, should be disseminated among the Citizens of the Town, is not extraordinary; it naturally excited your attention, and, no doubt, some of your Members was desirous of availing themselves of the opinion and advice of those

of their fellow citizens, on whose Judgment, in all important cases, they placed the greatest reliance. This will account, perhaps, for "its geting air." It is very agreeable, however, to me; and I most sincerely hope, the Town will never repose a confidence in any Man, or body of Men, whatever, who will be afraid or ashamed to have any of their transactions or opinions meet the light, and stand the strictest Scrutiny. But in a case in which it was your sole prerogative, by Law, to decide, it may perhaps be worthy of consideration, how far it is proper to communicate the substance of applications, and obtaining opinions from Gentlemen, who are unavoidably deprived of the necessary information to qualify them to judge with propriety. Indeed it appears to carry with it, the appearance of an ex partes mode of procedure, which, view it in what light you please, cannot quadrate with the impartiality of that precept "hear both parties; and consider the subject well before you decide." I am, I humbly conceive, justified in making this remark, by the opinion of my much esteemed Friend, Deacon Hatton, which you thought proper to communicate. To this Gentlemans application, it was objected, "that it had existed a great number of years; and "that a considera-

ble

=ble sum, assessed in the Year 1771 or 1772, when he was collector, was paid into the Treasury in * paper Money, several Years subsequent to the commencement of the late War. The first of these had but little weight, because it could in no degree abate the Justice of the Demand; but the second, which was made by the late Mr Treasurer Perrin, a Gentleman well inform=ed relative to the circumstances of the Trea=sury for many Years prior to that period, had the effect to set aside the application.

You, Gentlemen, and all reasonable Men, will Judge whether the two cases are anyway similar: If there is a similarity, I am free to own, I am so short sighted that I cannot discov=er it, and shall be much obliged to you, or any of my Fellow citizens, to point it out intel=ligibly, when, I shall be ready, to acknowledge my error, and concede that my demand shall be set aside for the same reasons. But untill this is done, I have a right to conclude that it stands separate, and is entitled to a reasonable consideration upon very different principles.

---

* I would by no means be understood, by mentioning this circumstance, to cast the least reflection on the Gentleman to whom it refers. It is a fact I could not well avoid adverting to. His character in my mind, stands perfectly fair for Integrity & uprightness; and I suppose his conduct to have been agreeable to the principles he professes & practices.

2.4 The question relative to the order is pointed to an account long since liquidated; and, had I known the scope and design of it, I should have been better able to have given a definitive an=swer: I will, however, from the Records, minutes in my possession, and from memory, give as circumstantial a one as possible, without at=tempting to analize your views in proposing it.

By a Resolve of the General Court of the 2d of December 1780, the several Towns in the Commonwealth were required to raise their respective proportions of 4240 men, to fill up their quota of the Continental army for three Years or during the War, 29 of which were set to the Town of Roxbury. These Men were all to be enlisted by the 31st Day of January then next; the Towns were to class or not to class for the purpose, as they pleas=ed; the charge was to be thereafter averag=ed on the whole State; and the Selectmen of each Town were required to make a return, on oath, of the charge their Town had been at, on or before the first Day of March 1781; and in case of neglect, the Towns were liable to pay the average price

price with an addition of 25 per cent as a Fine for each and every Man they should be deficient.

The several Votes of the Town of the 26th Day of December 1780, May 1st & June 18th & 5th & 9th of November 1781, which were all directed to this important object, are on record, and will shew in a clear point of light the progress of this business, the sentiments of the Town upon the System originally adopted, and the disagreeable dilema to which the Town were ultimately reduced. By the first the Town agreed to pursue the same inefficient plan of, "Classing or not classing," and, to complete the misfortune, also agreed that a certain proportion of Paper Money might be received, at the discretion of the then Selectmen, in part towards defraying the said expence. By the Second they directed the several heads of classes to pay the Monies in their hands into the Town Treasury: By the third they chose a Committee to settle with those Gentlemen; and by the subsequent Votes took every measure in their power to ward off the impending blow. 14 out of 29 Men had been raised by the united exertions of the heads of classes; Two classes, foreseeing

the difficulty in which the Town would probably be involved, wisely withdrew themselves, and procured their own Men; and the Town were left, after their resources for the purpose were nearly absorbed, to make the best shift they could to obtain the remaining 13 Men. This transaction had made but little progress before the more wise and judicious part of the Town began to see the inefficacy of the System itself, and what effect the still more injudicious plan of receiving Paper Money was like to produce; but alass! it was impossible to apply a remedy adequate to the inconvenience, and, right or wrong, it must have its course, and work its own cure.

It was my unfortunate lott, amid all the contention which this affair had, and was still like to occasion, to be a Collector. I say unfortunate, because it is an observation justified by experience, that many People when called on to pay for any mistaken measures whatever, are too apt to look on the individual whose duty it is to execute the Laws, however innocent he may be, as the

the immediate cause of the inconvenience they feel, without recollecting the particular circumstances which occasioned it. Encourag=ed, however, by the Votes of the Town, particu=larly that of the 18th of June, and with a view, as far as was in my power, to avert the missfor=tune that attended, I procured, on the 4th-20th of 30th of August four Men, to whom I paid £300. in Gold & Silver, immediately on their passing Muster. This was all I was enabled to do, which still left nine Men deficient, for which the Genoral Court, by their act of October 20th 4781, fined the Town £1156.15.5 3/4, which sum was assessed on all the Inhabitants, and War=rants and Executions immediately issued to compell its collection. Under these circum=stances, I agreed with a Mr Everat to pro=cure the whole number of Men wanting at £75. each, for which I agreed to pay him a part in Cash, and the remainder in valuable Stock out of my Shop, being the only alternative I could adopt; in con=sequence the Town, by petitioning the Le=gislature, become exonorated from the Fine, and saved the clear sum of £476.9.7 3/4.

This

This, Gentlemen, is the history of the order, and I trust you will consider it a full, and satisf=actory answer to your question.

On my part, Gentlemen, this event was peculiarly hard, for from November 27. 4781, to May 7. 4784, a space of two years & an half, I received no more than £462.15.5 1/2 as ap=pears by your Records; and a little atten=tion to the Payments I made in that time to the several Treasurers, will convince you I could not have had any other Monies to apply to that purpose.

The vote of the Town of the 9th of March 4784, will inform you of the final issue of this Business; and the Tranquability that has uni=formly subsisted, which has been as conspi=cuous as at any period, perhaps, from the year 1630, to the present day, notwithstanding this, and many affecting scenes it has experi=enced, is as striking a proof of the satisfaction of the generality of the Citizens as can be adduced.

3d Your question relative to the New Emis=sion Money is short and easily answered. It was paid into the Town Treasury for the ovarplus of what is called the New Emission Tax, assessed June 20. 4781. and it was obtain=ed on Loan of my much esteemed Friend Tho=

Thomas Walley Esq^r, on the best terms I could make. The Sum due the Treasurer was about £119. The Money was borrowed December 30. 1786, from which period to the first Day of Au=: gust 1791, I paid for Principal & Interest £175 11 4, which will appear by the papers herewith exhibited. Thus, Gentlemen, you see clearly, that by reason of the fluctuating State of the Public Paper, I have been a great Sufferer in almost every negotiation; a misfortune this, which I conceive no human wisdom or foresight could have effectually guarded against or prevented.

4^ly Whether you have or have not, "A Right to make Precedents," may not, perhaps, be very material; and, though the declaration, coming from an Authority so respectable, might make it improper for me even to doubt it, I may, I hope, without giving of=: fence, consider the propriety and expedi=: ency of your exercising it in the case to which, I presume, it was intended to refer.

When I first was honoured with the office of Selectman, in the year 1782, it is a fact well known, that the Town was involved in an heavy Debt contracted in the course of the late War; that for want of proper Records, it was even

difficult to ascertain its date and amount, with a tolerable degree of precision; and that the Citizens at large were struggling under an accumulated load of Taxes; all which ren=: dered a great degree of Prudence, attention, and firmness, indispensibly necessary, in order to prevent discord and animosity. And it is equally true, that when I received the Records and papers belonging to the Town, in the Month of March 1785, they were in a State of great disorder and confu=: sion; to remedy which, and render them res=: pectable, I spared neither Time, Expence or attention, for several years; and among the Regulations adopted for the Honour and Safety of the Town, I procured, at my own charge, a number of proper check Books, the utility of which have been acknowledg=: ed, not only by the Selectmen, but by many respectable citizens. And when I delivered the Books & Papers to my Suc=: cessor, in the Month of March last, I also delivered those Checks, without any consideration whatever. Under these circumstances, My respected Fellow Citizens, I cannot express the emotion I experienced, when

when, on the 23d of April last, you thought proper to mutilate one of those very orders, by expunging the words "or order," merely because it was in my favour, for the mere trifling sum of £3. I am loth to animadvert upon this subject; but cannot forbear re-
: marking; That if twelve years Services
successively, in which I served,
1 Year as a Collector, at a difficult period.
12 Years as an overseer of the Poor, when I made large advances.
10 years as a Selectman and assessor through many painful Trials and difficulties.
7 Years as a Representative in the General Court,
7 years as Town Clerk, beside several other Offices of less importance; in which peri-
: od I certainly made as great a Sacrifice of Health, Time, Property, Domestick ease and enjoyment; in short, of almost every thing a man can consider dear and valuable in life as any one Man could do, merits so pointed a mark of disrespect, it is fit and proper I should, not only meet it, but submit to it with humility and resignation. But, Gentlemen, if this "Precedent," (the only one that has ever been attempted of the kind since I have been

been acquainted with Town affairs) shall appear to be totally unmerited, as I conceive it to be, you will excuse me for observing, I shall feel it my duty to do myself Justice, on all proper occasions, by a fair and upright representa-
: tion of Facts.

It is truely hard upon any one individual against whom the weight and influence of any one Man, or Body of Men, in Office, is di-
: rected; however, being conscious of my own innocence, I choose to adopt the sentiments of the Poet on this occasion.

"Charity, decent, modest, easy, kind,
Softens the high, and rears the abject mind;
Knows with just reigns, and gentle hand to guide,
Betwixt vile shame, and arbitary pride;
Not soon provok'd, she easily forgives,
And much she suffers, as she much believes;
Soft Peace she brings wherever she arrives,
She builds our quiet as she forms our lives;
Lays the rough paths of peevish nature even,
And opens in each heart a little Heaven."

5ly Whatever may be my private opinion of your determination," to lay my case before the Town, "You may be assured I heartily acquiesce in it; only give it a fair chance,

by

by communicating the whole, (which I rely on your impartiality, you will do without reserve,) is all I desire; and as my several addresses to you of the 4th of October, 11 of November, with the one I have now the pleasure of making, contain a fair detail of those untoward events which have tended to distress me, and ultimately to occasion a melancholy catastrophe to me and my innocent Family, I shall feel infinitely obliged if you will have the goodness to order printed copies to be put into the hands of every Citizen of this Town, and any others you may Judge proper.

I have the honour to be,
very respectfully,
Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant
Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 10 December 1793.

Revd Mr William Emerson,

Dear Sir, On the 30th ultimo I wrote my son Thomas, in which I suggested, that "Should there come a turn of Sleighing a day or two before Christmas, and you was pleased to permit him to go a cast to Roxbury or Boston, and tarry a few days, I would endeavour to carry him home, and invite his Mama to ride to Harvard to see his fortification." As I am doubtful whether that letter has reached him, I beg leave to repeat the same request to you. Indeed, should there be no Snow on the Ground at that time, I would wish he may be permitted to make us a visit, provided you have no objections to it; because I conceive a favourable opportunity may soon present for his return; and, if I can prevail on Mrs Clarke, I shall feel very happy in giving her an opportunity of visiting your happy abode; and I suppose, at that season, there can be no great difficulty in his obtaining an easy and safe conveyance in some Waggon from Harvard to Boston.

You are sensible, my Dear Sir, how much I value the company and conversation of my real friends: To enjoy yours uninterrupted, it is my present intention to set off from home, if possible, on a Monday, and spend several days in your agreeable company, and that of Madam Grosvenor and her very agreeable Family.

I beg you, Sir, to present my respectful compliments to Madam Grosvenor and her amiable Family, and believe me to be, with lively sentiments of Esteem, Revd & Dr Sir,
Your Obedient humble Servant
Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 16 December 1793

Mr Joseph Russell Junr

Sir, When you and I executed Mr Blaney's discharge, in the Month of August last, I proposed to wait on Arnold Wells Esqr the same Day for that purpose; but not meeting him at home, I wrote him on the 13th of the same month, inclosing all the papers for his decision upon them, and they remained in his hands untill the 29th ultimo, when I received them from him, and transmitted them to you with my letter of that date. In the letter above referd to of August 13th I observe "The principal Debt due Mr Blaney appears to be from the Public, on which I confess, I do not place much reliance; not because I think it not due, but on account of the distance of time since the business was transacted, and the state of the accounts between this and the United States, which, by this time, I should suppose are nearly closed." The President's speech to the Federal Legislature, of the 3d instant, fully justifies that conjecture, as it appears the Commissioners completed their business in the time limited by Law, and that the ballances was carried to the Books of the Treasury. Under these circumstances, I think it is very doubtful, whether the Legislature of this State would willingly allow any other Demand which must, from the nature of it, be charged to the United States; and if such Demand should be allowed

whether the Government of the Union would consent to a derangment of a System, wisely calculated to effect a finial liquidation of the War accounts, merely for that purpose. If these idea's are founded in reason, to what purpose would it be to petition the General Court upon the subject? on the other hand, would it not be much more eligible to apply directly to the Federal Legislature, stating in as clear and explicit terms as possible the circumstances which occasioned the application, and the best reasons in one power for the delay on the part of Mr Blaney? I am, I think, very certain that Mr Blaney has never received any payment for his Services as an issuing Commissary in the year 1775; and, I believe it was generally acknowledged at the time, that he did the duties of the Office well, however inattentive he may have been since to his own private affairs; both reason & Justice therefore, are in favour of an equitable allowance on that account. The principal question in my mind is, which will be the best plan to adopt to attain it? all the Books & Documents necessary to prove & illustrate the Facts, I should suppose, are now at Philadelphia; but notwithstanding, should every necessary information be found, it must, of consequence be an act of Grace and favour if we ultimately succeed.

I submit these sentiments to your consideration; and I also take the leave to inclose a rough draft of

a petition, which I submit to your correction and improvement; and I shall be happy to contribute any aid in my power to obtain what I believe to be perfectly Just and equitable. I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem & regard, Your Obt Servt

Tho. Clarke

Mr Clarke presents his respectful compliments to his Friend Mr Samuel Wait, and begs leave to renew his request contained in his Letter of the 8th Day of October last. On this occasion Mr Clarke assures Mr Wait, that he would by no means call on him had he not an urgent occasion; and, that should Mr Wait, on a candid consideration of all circumstances, be of opinion that the trifle alluded to was not a new loan totally disconnected with any thing that took place anterior to the 26 Day of March last, he will, on Mr Wait's requisition, honourably re-pay him. At all events, he relies on Mr Wait's candour, that he will think proper to favour him with his reply to this request.

December 18. 1793.

Roxbury 24 December 1793.

Mr John Williams Junr

Sir, It is truely painful to me to be under the necessity to vindicate my conduct from every unkind and unfounded insinuation. The one you was pleased to suggest yesterday before the Town, relative to the order dated in 1784, for £30.0.4, I consider extremely so, and feel it my duty to undeceive you. — That order was given for a ballance due from John Brown, a per: son who at that time improved Doctor Samuel Cheney's place: After obtaining of him in Cash, Corn, oxen and wood, the Sum of £13.1.0. I commited him to Pri: son for the remainder, from which he was liberated, by direction of the then Selectmen, and his Bond given to the ~~then~~ Town Treasurer for the amount. You will find the obligation in the Treasury, and will, I trust, be convinced, both of your mistake and the rectitude of my conduct. and most certainly the Selectmen could have no objection to exonorating me, when I had done all in my power to obtain the Money, of which, I venture to say, they were thoroughly convinced. As you have publicly arrained my con: duct in this particular, I rely on your Justice and can: dour, that you will with equal freedom embrace the earliest occasion to set it in a proper point of view. The objections relative to the abatements made to the persons I never saw, on the 7th Day of May 1784, must I conceive, upon a moments consideration, appear equally unfounded. Those orders were all drawn

drawn in pursuance of a unanimous Vote of the Town, passed on the 9th Day of March preceding; they therefore could hardly be said to be the orders of the Selectmen, tho they passed through their hands for mere form's sake, and to see ~~that the several~~ that the several sums were rightly divided; and what, Sir, could be more equitable, than that I should be discharged of the sums charged against me, whether "I ever see the persons named in the list or not? Let reason and Justice determine! I know of no other objections but what have been fairly answered; and it now lies before the Gentlemen Selectmen for their ultimate decision upon my application; what that may be I know not, but I verily believe Facts more completely substantiated never came before them, whether they refer to the Public records, my vouchers, or the oral Testimony that has been made upon the subject. Amid such a flood of Evidence, I humbly conceive, I may reasonably expect a determination perfectly Honourable and Satisfactory. I am, Sir, very respectfully

Your humble Servant

Tho. Clarke

P. S. My several communications to the Honourable Board of Selectmen have unavoidably been prolix, such I trust, when it is considered how much pains has been taken to invalidate my Testimony, and set aside the Demand which has been the subject of them, it will apologize for it.

I request, Sir, that you will do me the favour to present my Respects to the Gentlemen, and acquaint them, I will do myself the Honour to wait on them at any time they may be pleased to assign for that purpose; and that, as they, the Town, and me, have been deprived of the Satisfaction, I had fondly anticipated, of hearing the whole openly communicated, if they will condescend to Honour the work with their Sanction, I will, as soon as possible, complete an Introduction which I have begun for that purpose, and communicate it to this Town in particular, and the Public at large, through the medium of a Free press, Dedicated to them or the Town at their option.

The following Letter was copied by Thomas Clarke Jr. whose inexperience has occasioned several errors.

250

Roxbury 28 December 1793.

Rev'd Mr. William Emerson,

Dear Sir,

I have had the pleasure of receiving your two letters of the 15th & 23d instant, and am much obliged by their contents. The experience I have had of your friendly and communicative disposition, and my knowledge of your remote situation from the great country road, convince me that you have no reason to be ashamed, and that you are perfectly faultless notwithstanding the unfrequency of your communications. Indeed, I have myself often lamented that so few opportunities have presented to communicate with you and my son since he has resided at Harvard; but I conceive you are abundantly compensated by the pleasure you must constantly enjoy in a retirement so rural and agreeable.

Accept, my Dear Sir, of my unfeigned acknowledgments for your solicitude on account of the sore on Thomas's head, and for the kind attentions he ~~has~~ experienced from you while it lasted. You also added the most heartfelt consolation by pronouncing "that he is well and in spirits". But, my friend, your opinion of the Health of his mind, and the

251

culture of his heart, and the improvement of his understanding. These interesting objects were what I had in view when I parted with him, and committed him to your care and Tuition. The information therefore, coming from an Instructor of whose Talents and Judgment I entertain an exalted opinion, is a cordial to my Soul infinitely superior to every earthly consideration. That he may continue to merit so honorary a Testimony of approbation, and derive the benefit of your care and attention through Life, is my ardent prayer to the supreme Author of every Blessing to his boundless creation.

Thomas arrived here late in the evening of the 23d instant, in good Health; and I return you many thanks for the trouble you was so good to take to procure him a translation so convenient to him.

I shall certainly endeavour to carry my purpose relative to making you and Madam Grosvenor a visit into effect; but I really doubt whether I shall be able to prevail on Mrs. Clarke to accompany me; indeed I fear she is too feeble to undertake such a journey at this inclement season. *

I am, Sir with sentiments of Esteem & Regard,
Your Obedient Servant. Tho Clarke.

Roxbury 31. December 1793.

Hon^ble John Read Esq^r

Sir, In nothing, perhaps, do mankind differ more materially in, than in their notions of happiness; in my opinion it consists, (as it relates to a Public character) in the anticipation of an honest Fame, and the conscious security of making a distinguished figure in the eyes of posterity. Indeed considering the fatigue of office, had not most Gentlemen the reward of an immortal reputation in view, they would prefer a life of uninterrupted ease and retirement, to any other. There is there fore, a veneration and respect which is due to every station, in proportion as the duties of it are fulfilled with true Honour and becoming Dignity. Can he who is vested with power fail of meeting with respect, unless by pursuing unworthy measures, and first breaking thro' that reverence he owes to himself? Ill, in my opinion, is power experienced by injuries; Ill can hard usage command veneration; and far more prevalent is affection in obtaining ones desires, than fear; Fear operates no longer than its object is pre-

present, but love produces its effects at a distance, and is as durable as Time to the Man who experiences it.

I am led to these remarks by a consideration of the Scene which was exhibited before the Town, on Monday the 23^d instant, in which you took an active, and, in my opinion, a decided part. As you then acted "as a private Citizen," tho' in concert with two others of the Honourable Board of selectmen, I conceive I have a right to analise your conduct, and, with decency and candour, point out the probable motives that induced it; in doing which, it may not be improper to advert to a few incidents that took place anterior to the time of which I am speaking.

On the fourth Day of March last, in pursuance of a determination which duty and interest had long before induced me to form, I honourably resigned the several Offices I had long sustained; and certainly, there is not on record more reciprocal Testimonials of affection and esteem than what took place on that occasion. The satisfaction of the citizens appeared to be complete; and I had the heartfelt pleasure of reflecting, that the business which I had taken upon me amid a Scene of disorder, and discontent, was replaced in the hands of those by whose free & voluntary suf-

suffrages I received it, in complete order and respectability; and these circumstances led me to anticipate, that, when I found it necessary to disclose my sufferings, occasioned principally by the various parts I had acted, I should at least experience that measure of candour and attention which is generally allowed to be due to long, and acknowledged faithful services. But alas! I soon found, to my unspeakable mortification "that another King had arisen who knew not Joseph." That even the ashes of time was to be ransacked, and the most diminutive foibles improved, if possible, to my disadvantage.

The letter I addressed to the Selectmen, of the 14th of October last, stated in plain, decent, and manly language, an honest Demand upon the Town, and my reasons for exhibiting it at the time I did.

That of the 11th of November contained an elucidation of those sentiments advanced in the former.

And the one of the 6th of December contained several bold Truths, with reasonings upon them equally open and unequivocal.

To the first the Gentlemen condescended to promise "they would consider it, &c a"

To the second "that they had determined to lay it before the Town."

But on the 5th of December (on reflecting,

perhaps, on the impropriety of the measure,) another measure was adopted, viz: "to obtain my request "that a clause might be inserted in the warrant, for that purpose," which I utterly refused, for reasons too obvious to need explaining. It was notwithstanding inserted, and I am now come to a consideration of the Scene that took place in consequence.

You was pleased to open the debate by observing, "that there were objections to Mr Clarke's claim," and your Brethren were so good to state them, and add such remarks as they thought proper to render them effectual. To avoid the imputation of being too prolix, I will state them in a summary way, and make my answer equally succinct.

1. "That there was an order for £30..0..4, which might be for a part of the sums I wished abated, because the memorandum of such an order & the date of the Treasurer's Books did not agree.. This order was an abatement to one John Brown who was committed to Prison, and liberated by the direction of the Selectmen, and his obligation taken for the amount. And, as to the time of the order's being entered with the Treasurer, I believe it is the first time such an inference was drawn from such premises, the holder of such orders being at liberty to present them when they please.

2. "That a part of the Sums I exhibited for abatement had been abated, viz^t Thomas Nolen's ballance., This was true, and had been acknowledg:ed by me to be a mistake. what reason then can be assigned for its being mentioned? or why did not the Gentleman recollect what I had said in the Postscript of my letter of Oc:tober 14^th"? It is possible that some of the Sums I have stated to be due may have been abated, though I am not conscious of it; if however this is the case, it may easily be discovered, and the list corrected." this would have been but candid and fair, especially in a Gentleman whom the Laws in my case had constituted a Judge.

3. "That if an abatement had been made to persons I never see, why was not the whole abated at the same time? The abatements alluded to were made by a unanimous direc:tion of the Town, expressed in their Vote of March 9^th 1784, whereby a whole assessment was relinquished; the Selectmen therefore, could not be said to exercise any Judgment or dis:cretion in the business; nor could those orders, Strictly speaking, be considered their orders, any more than for forms sake they passed through their hands.

4. "That I had judged in my own case, in

several instances, in the year 1784." This was certainly true as it applied to several abate:ments; and whenever did I exclude myself from the exercise of this right? The cases re:ferred to were very plain ones, and required no great penetration. one person was dead and had left a numerous and helpless fami:ly totally destitute of the means of support; and the others were so extreme poor as to be unable even to pay their rent. or was this observation made to make me appear in con:sistant with myself? If so, it cannot be supported by any thing I have said upon the subject. The remark in my letter of November 11^th cannot bear such a con:struction, it being, "A Man of true sen:sibility and modesty will always avoid, as much as possible, judging in any case in which he feels interested.

5. "That I had said, I never meant to call upon the Town." I am not sensible of any such expression having escaped me, as it related to any thing which was past: That I have with regard to any future events I do not deny; and I con:ceive I have had abundant reason so to determine. *

6. "That I had received an order for £15. for my services as a Selectman the last year."

This, I believe the Gentleman who asserted it, will find to be a mistake, as I cannot recollect any such order. It must be acknowledged that much time was spent, and great expences incured, and I conceive both was unavoidable. But as every Gentleman received in the same proportion as I did, viz^t 4/ pr Day, they are necessarily involved in the charge, if it was intended as such, and equally responsible for their conduct.

7. To complete the Scene, my Honourable Friend, with whom I have often & happily been associated, came forward to move, "Whether the Town would allow to Mr Clarke the whole, or any part of the £45. exhibited in his bill for abatement." How was it possible, my Friend, for the Town to determine what in this case would be equitable? They could not possess the requisite information, and consiquently must have decided at random: It would besides, have been exercising a prerogative which the Laws have wisely placed in the Assessors, as well as doing what the Town assembled never undertook before.

And now, my good Sir, having gone through the examination I proposed, permit me, with a spirit of meakness and

candour, to ask you, Whether in all this business, from the begining, I have experienced a treatment dictated by the sentiments and feelings of the Christian, the Friend, and the Gentleman? Whether you and your Brethren have extended that measure to me which they, or either of them, would like to experience under a change of circumstances?

A candid and fair answer to these queries will be highly acceptable to, and gratefully acknowledged by, Sir,

Your sincere Friend,
and very humble Servant
Sho. Clarke

---

* In order that the candid and judicious reader may be able to discover, whether I have or have not, had reason to determine "that I would hold no Demand against the Town in future," I will here state one or two striking Facts. In one instance only I saved the Town the clear sum of £476-9-7 3/4, which otherwise must, as it respected the Town, have been totally lost.

From the commencement of the Year 1781 to the commencement of the year 1793, there have been no less than 28 Collectors chosen (including in this

this number (several re-elections,) to whom have been abated, at various periods, as near as I have been able to ascertain, about 10 per cent on the whole amount committed to them, (exclusive of the sums abated of the unfortunate Fire in 1781.) Now, had I been abated in the same proportion, it would amount to the sum of £461.9.7¼, for one Year only, with which all the abatements I have received, with the addition of that recently applied for, will bear no comparison. Added to these considerations, notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties and embarrassments I had to encounter, I received no more than eight pence on the pound, where as, at the present day, when the assessments have become very light and easy to be collected, the Town are compelled to give the sum of one shilling & six pence. Facts so notorious need no comments; and the application of them must be obvious to every unbiased mind.

Roxbury 8 Jan.y 1794.

Mr William Lambert

Dear Sir, I request your acceptance of my sincere thanks, for your very kind & generous offer to relinquish the Demand you have against me, and take leave to inclose your account, for that purpose, agreeable to your directions.

Amid the Scene of Trouble & anxiety I have experienced for eight Months past, I should be chargable with ingratitude, were I to conceal several instances of magnanimity I have experienced, that have been a cordial to my mind, and a consolation to my Family: Yours, my Friend, is among this number.

Should I be able in future to pay it, you may be assured I will make it one of the first objects of my attention.

With grateful sentiments of Esteem, I am, Dear Sir, Your humble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 8 January 1794

Honble John Read Esqr

Sir, There is nothing more salutary to an unfortunate Man than the kind interposition and magnanimous conduct of real Friends; Yours, my Friend, of the 6th instant, in freely & voluntarily relinquishing my Bond of the 30th of March 1785, in consideration of my misfortunes, I consider particularly so; for which, and the repeated experience I have had of your Friendship, permit me to offer you my most grateful acknowledgments.

Permit me also to request, that you will do me the favour to present my profound respects to Madam Bowdoin, the Honorable James Bowdoin Esqr & Lady Temple, and assure them respectively of the high sense of gratitude their generosity has made on my mind, and the obligations they have laid me under by relinquishing their proportion of my obligation above referred to.

With grateful sentiments of Esteem,

I am, Sir, your Obt Servant.

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 8 January 1794

Mr Jason Davis Junr

Sir, There is no event that can attend a state of misfortune more affecting, than to meet the censure of those of whose Friendship we felt the strongest assurance, and which, on all occasions, was reciprocal. When I addressed you on the first of March last, & requested the favour of you to accept my Note and credit the Town, God knows, I never had once contemplated the affecting scene that took place a few days after, tho' I own, I felt extremely pressed on all sides. I hoped, however, that the pressure would have subsided, at least long enough to have extricated myself by means of the Debts then due, and the Property which every possible exertion was making to prepare for market; but alas! every exertion proved abortive, and I was compelled to submit to a Fate extremely mortifying and fatal to me and my family. This event, you may easily conceive, had a direct tendency to affect both Body and mind: In fact both were so debilitated for some time, that I expected nothing less than to pay the last Debt, that can be demanded of human nature, by a calm resignation to the will of Providence. But

But thanks to Heaven! and the very kind attention of a Vertuous Wife, and several obliging Friends, I recovered the first shock, and made the Demands my Friends held against me the Subject of my most Serious contemplation, among which Yours was with me a primary object; and, indeed, I have left no laudable pursuit unattempted to avail myself of what I consider my just dues to exonorate myself of it. But, Sir, unfortunately for me, I have hitherto met with unexpected, and I humbly conceive, unmerited rebuffs. The inclosed Letter of the 23d of April last, will more fully disclose my views and sentiments upon this Subject, as well as the ideas I early entertained of my Obligation to you. And, I confess, I hoped that the great exertions I had made for a Series of Years to Serve the Town to the utmost of my Abilities, the losses I sustained in consequence, and the sacrifices I made, and I may add, the honourable manner in which I had but a few days before discharged myself, would have entitled me to a favourable attention: But, Sir, you know (by observation though I hope most sincerely you never will by experience,) to what disadvantages the unfortunate are

subjected, and how difficult it is for them to vindicate themselves from every unkind insinuation. Human nature is in reality an unaccountable composition; it is actuated by various considerations, at different periods. Whatever is exalted in our view to day, may be proportionably debased tomorrow, and so vice versa; and, perhaps, for reasons equally conclusive and just. As to yourself, Sir, I am sensible I am under the strongest obligations, not only to acknowledge, but to provide for the payment of your Demand against me: It is a Debt of Honour! from which (if life and Health permit) I am resolved to be honourably discharged: If therefore I shall ultimately fail of succeeding in the plan I have adopted, which I am conscious is equally so, I beg leave to propose that you may receive the assignment of several Obligations transmitted to Thomas Williams Junr Esqr on the 5 of November last, for collection, on which I am morally certain, considerable Monies will be obtained; and if this proposition shall be unsatisfactory, I will (chearfully) relinquish every thing that can possibly be spared from the immediate support of my Family to the amount of

of my Note. These, Sir, are the best terms I have to offer. I submit them to you in full confi: dence that some or all of them will meet your approbation, and, at once, relieve me from a state of anxiety which I have experi: enced for near eight Months past in consi: quence of the sacred tie I have unfortunly both myself under to you for your politeness in attending to my request of the first Day of March last. I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your obt servant

Sho Clarke

The following was
(Inclosed in the foregoing.)
Letter.

Roxbury 23 April 1793.

Mr Aaron Davis Junr

Dear Sir, When I wrote you on the first ult, I little contemplated what has since taken place; I was indeed conscious of my embarrass: ments at the time, but I hoped the precautions I had taken would enable me to hold out untill I had effected a plan long since laid of going on to Philadelphia and New York, and there collecting Debts and disposing of Property to an amount that I was morrally certain would answer every present Demand: Providence, however, has thought fit to order otherwise, and it is my duty to submit.

I feel myself, Sir, under infi:

nite obligations to you for the Honor you did me by crediting the Town, and receiving my private note for Eighteen pounds one shilling & seven pence, and I shall certainly make a point of discharging it among my most honorary Debts: As a proof of this I inclose you an order for Three Pounds which I am assured you will duly credit. I am, Sir, with real Esteem, Your obt servant,

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 9 Janry 1794

Mr Samuel Wait

Dear Sir, By the conversation that past: ed between you and me, this afternoon, I suppose there are points in which the Creditors of the late Company of Clarke & Gay wish to be more fully sattisfied. The Committee of the Creditors are possessed of the Books of the Company, and I am in consiquence deprived of the prevalidge of adverting to dates and particulars; but if the Gentlemen will have the goodness to state their Queries in Writ: ing, I will, at once, return a definitive

definitive answer, so far as my memo
=ry will serve me.

Your Sincere Friend

Tho Clarke

P.S. my only reason for desiring
a statement in writing, is, to prevent
misunderstandings, which may possibly
happen from oral Testimony, and
because I hold myself responsible
for the Correctness of Clarke & Gay's
Books, errors excepted, to which
all Men are alike liable.

January 13. 1793. Wrote Mr N. Sparhawk
in reply to his Letter of this date, & recapitulat
=ing the circumstances of Mr A. Blaney's Notes.

In the afternoon had a long conversation
with him upon the subject, in which he appear'd
to censure me severely. In consequence of
which, I wrote him again, on Jany 14. relating
my own sufferings, & asking a number of
questions. I delivered the Letter myself, &
upon consideration, he treated me handsomly.

Roxbury 17 Jany 1794.

William Hunt Esquire

Dear Sir, Being uncertain whether my letter *
of the 28 of November last, with your account
annexed, has ever been delivered to you, I take
leave to annex a duplicate of it. The ballance
therein stated is £2-9-11. To a Gentleman of
Mr Hunt's sensibility, I am persuaded I need
not add a single word to induce his compli
=ance with a request so reasonable.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your humble Servant

Tho Clarke

* For the letter alluded to, see p. 221.

Roxbury 18 Jany 1794.

Thomas Williams Jr. Esqr

Sir, On the several Obligations I forwarded to you
in my Letter of the 5 of November last, I should suppose
considerable Monies may be collected; as these
come to hand, I shall be much obliged if you
will be so good to pay it over to Mr Aaron Davis
Junr, to the amount of my Note of the first Day
of March 1793, for £18-1-7, as I am particular
=ly desirous of extinguishing it honourably,
and as soon as circumstances will admit.

I am, Sir, Your very humble Servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 31 Jany. 1794

Mr Josiah Cunningham

Sir, I wrote you on the 21 of November last inclosing your account; on the 29 following you called to acquaint me, "you would settle it the next week," but tho' two months have elapsed you have not attended to it; I am sorry to give you the trouble of renewing my request, and I shall be much more so to be under the disagreeable necessity of puting the Demand out of my hands for collection. Your humble Servant

Tho Clarke

Mr Samuel Burrill

Sir, I purpose to carry my son Thomas to Harvard the next week, for the purpose of completing his Education before he enters on his apprenticeship, for which I wish to obtain an horse for three or four Days; will you do me the favour to let me have one for the purpose? And as my purse is low, and expences large, you will greatly oblige me if you can make it convenient to spare me ten Dollars on account of your Note. Your Friend & Servant

Jany 31. 1794. Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 7 Feby 1794

Mr Giles Alexander Junr

Dear Sir

The Revd Mr Emerson called on me rather unexpectedly yesterday and found me unprepared for him; I shall therefore be greatly obliged if you will be so good to loan me twenty Dollars; I annex my Note for that Sum & will repay it in a short time.

I am, Sir, Your affectionate humble servant

Tho Clarke

In the afternoon of Feby 7. wrote to Mr Alexander upon the Subject of a Voyage to Charleston S. Carolina, submiting the expediency & propriety of the undertaking to his better Judgment. Yes a.

Roxbury 11 February 1794

Honble John Lowell Esqr

Respected Sir,

The Letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, is this Day come to hand from Joseph Anthony Esqr & Son: by the contents of it you will observe, that the Sum of £ 144-11-3, Pennsylvania currency, and fifty Dollars & sixteen cents, being the amount of Sales of property in their hands, and of Monies paid them by Mr Cope, equal to one hundred & thirty Pounds thirteen shillings & eleven pence Lawful money, are placed to your credit, for which you will be pleased to draw on them when most convenient to you. We lament that Some of this property has been sacrificed, owing, we conceive, to the calamitous sickness which has recently prevailed in that city; the amount, however, is more than we originally represented, which is Some consolation to us.

We beg leave, Sir, to submit to you the propriety of your compleating a Settlement with the Creditors of the late Company of Clarke & Gay, or their Committee

as soon as may be convenient, that so an end may this Sar be put to that long and tedious Settlement.

We are with all due respect, Sir,

Your most obedient Servants

Signed Tho Clarke
Jael Gay.

Roxbury 11 February 1794

Joseph Ruggles Esqr.

Dear Sir, Inclosed I forward you, for the information of the creditors of Clarke & Gay, the copy of a Letter this Day received from Joseph Anthony Esqr & Son, together with such extracts from the papers inclosed therein, as I conceive necessary to elucidate the Subject, and Settle the Books; also a copy of Mr Gay's and my Letter of this date to Judge Lowell, upon the same Subject, in which "we requested him to Settle as soon as might be convenient," in order to stop Interest.

It

It is with great concern that I see a Debt, on the productiveness of which I had fondly placed great reliance, fall so much short of my original expectations. Indeed, I own, I hoped that this, with a few other matters of less moment, would have netted near £100. more to the creditors than was at first represented; but alas! it seems a series of unfortunate circumstances and events were assigned for the truely unfor-tunate Year 1792; — Among the sufferers in consequence of it, there are few, if any, that has more reason to lament it than I have; for, notwithstanding I took all the pains in my power to obtain, manufacture, and vend the Stock, by doing which, I laboured far beyond my strength through the whole Summer & Autumn, (as I trust you, who know my constitution and debility, are sensible of), yet all the odium, (if in fact it deserves any) and all the most unhappy effects, has fallen on me; for what reason God only knows; for I believe it impossible for

any of my fellow Men to assign a true one for their conduct towards me. If, Sir, kind and seasonable interpositions in favour of the unfortunate: If obliging attentions to those I have been led to view as my real Friends, has any claim to merit, I may rea-sonably claim it; and a consciousness of this has been the principal ground of con-solation to me for near eleven months past, in which I have experienced a treat-ment unparelled in a Christian coun-try, and a liberal and enlightened age. On the one hand, the creditors of Clarke & Gay, manifest their dissatisfaction, tho' they are possessed of every thing I could claim under that firm; on the other, my private Creditors, persicute me for my supposed partiality to the former. Thus placed between two Fires, I have been compelled to lie, as it were in the trough of the Sea, and submit, while the Billows and Waves have rolled over me. Is this Righteous? Let

Let those who possess any ray of Humanity, Reason, and Sensibility, determine! It is certain the greatest minds have ever been most open to impressions of the Human kind; so every moral virtue necessarily flows from benevolence, as its true and genevine source. It is impossible a Man who has a just feeling for the calamities of others, can deliberately break thro' the moral ties of any kind, because it is certain he cannot do so, without being the occasion of suffering to those who stand within the influence of the particular action. We may therefore justly consider this principle the evidence of real manhood.

I am, with Truth and Sincerity,

Dear Sir,

Your real, tho' unfortunate, Friend.

Sho Clarke

To Roxbury 15 February 1794

Honble John Read Esqr
Mr John Davis
Mr Jacob Weld
Mr Ebenezer Seaver
Mr John Williams
} Selectmen of Roxbury.

Respected Gentlemen,

My several communications of October 14. November 11. and December 6, together with the two Letters I have had the Honour of addressing to Mr John Williams of the 24 of December, and the Honourable John Read Esqr on the 31 of the same Month, (all of which are links of the same chain,) have necessarily been prolix; but I hope the importance of the subject to me, on the one hand; and the necessity there was on the other, to explain it thoroughly, will apologize for it. I have not been insensible of the delicacy of your situation; nor of the torrent of groundless prejudice you have to encounter; and it is for these reasons chiefly that I have adopted the idea of communicating my sentiments in writing, in preference to oral testimony; and, whatever your determination may be,

you will at least have it in your power to adduce them; and, from uncontrovertable Facts, and fair arguments, check, if not successfully repell their force. I have studiously endeavoured through this discussion, to advert to Truths, which were on record, or recent in every Gentleman's mind; and while I adhere strictly to this unerring pole Star, I rest assured, that the Selectmen of Roxbury, will not be offended at the number of pages, and much less with their contents. Indeed, I feel it incumbent on me, (confiding in the Justice of my cause) to answer every objection that has or can be adduced to prevent the success of my application, in defiance of all that personal enmity, and rank prejudice, is able to do to prevent it; and I shall at least enjoy the happiness of reflecting, that I have in this instance done my duty; a duty I owe to myself, and, I trust, a truly virtuous family, who, for about eleven months past, have, and are still suffering, in consequence of the too liberal Sacrifices I have

made for 12 years anterior to the fourth day of March 1793; and, my Friends, allow me to add, were it not for These Innocents, I would (debilitated and worn down as I am, by hard usage) agree to sacrifice, and be sacrificed, again and again, before I would trouble, either you or the Town, about the trifling sum of about £40. Trifling indeed, because it is justly due to a Man, who, from the purest motives, has submitted to spend and be spent in its service.

Being persuaded, that you possess a firmness and independence of mind, infinitely superior to vain clamour and ill founded prejudice, I will now take leave to reply to the few remaining objections to my request, that have been promulgated.

1. "That there appears to be another order of abatement in my favour, beside the one for £30-0-4. for about £30 (more or less)." This is undoubtedly true; and if you can produce it, you will find it to be for nine or ten polls left by mistake to several citizens of the Town in the year 1781, which I was directed to allow, keep an account of, and exhibit a list at the close of the year." You will also find another order, purporting to be an order of abatement to me, for

nearly the same sum, which is founded on a Vote of the Town, passed (if I mistake not) on the 29th of June 1781, when the Town Voted to raise Four hundred Pounds Solid Money, for the purpose of purchasing their proportion of Beef for the Army: And also Voted that 10 per cent should be allowed to each citizen, in the sum assessed, for prompt payment. I do not pretend to give you the words verbatim, but the true sense and mean=ing of them, and beg leave to refer you to the record for a more full explanation. If there=fore, you shall discover an error, your candour and liberality will naturally place it to the side of Human frailty, rather than design; especially if the idea I suggested, in my letter of the 14th of October past, shall appear to be sup=ported, "That all the abatements I have ever received will not exceed one half the amount abated to other collectors, from the commencement of the Year 1781 to the present day &c.a." which I presume will appear to be the case.

2. It is said "That John Pierpont and Joseph Smith were persons of property at the time, from whom the Taxes might have been col=lected." But how does this appear? The

former of these men I was acquainted with for upwards of twenty years, and am certain he had very little property, even in the days of his prosperity, that he could call his own; his House was mortgaged, he was indebted for his Mill, and to his Brother Benjamin for a large proportion of his trading Stock; and in the beginning of the late War he sustained a very heavy loss by a British Agent, which to my knowledge, absorbed the whole. But if in fact he was a person of property, what could become of it? He had no depend=ents, nor does it appear that he gave it away; and he certainly for years before his Death, pledged his Books, and even clothing to sati=ate his appetite with Drink.

As to the other person, I do not pretend to know what were his circumstances at the time; at first he paid his Taxes as well as others; at the close he failed, and I confess I never could discover any appearance of propri=ty. But

3 It is suggested "That I took Honorable Barlett's vote to myself." If you, Gentlemen, can adopt this sentement; I beg you to consider how far it militates with your own principles, in a case in which you have been pleased to intrust yourselves relative to me, in the course of the year

year past; and I am sure you will despise the imputation of even appearing inconsistant.

The fact is, that in those times of difficulty which the Town has experienced since the year 1781, the Collectors in general have, from time to time, been instructed to avail themselves of every opportunity to collect the Taxes, and save the Town harmless; and expedients of this kind have been practiced, with and without success, on several occasions, as some of your members very well know. How far therefore, I discharged my duty, in a case which I knew in any event to be desperate, I submit to you, and a very unbiased citizen to determine.

4. Having replied to the several objections that have come to my knowledge, permit me now, Gentlemen, to consider how far Recedents, is or is not, concerned in the event. And this, I frankly confess, is the only solid objection to my application, in my opinion, that has, or indeed can, be adduced; and, being made by the more wise and judicious of my fellow citizens, you will pardon me in requesting your indulgence, while I make a few observations and remarks; and if I

cannot repell it on fair ground, I will at once agree to give up the argument, and calmly submit to the loss, however unreasonable.

Of the twenty eight collectors that have been chosen or re chosen, from March 1781 to March 1793, I know of none but what have been more or less unfortunate in their collections, and, on that account, claimed, and experienced, the consideration of the Selectmen. In the Year 1781, in the third Parish only, which consists of but about one fifth of the property of the Town, and generally less than 100 rateable polls, nearly all the Taxes fell to two valuable places now owned by David, S. Greenough & Martin Brimmer Esqrs, to amount of 60 or £70, were totally lost, beside other smaller sums. I do not remember any such capital losses in the Second Parish, but am well assured the abatements exceed ten per cent. By a recurrence to the orders, it will be found that in 1782, the abatements were nearly in the same proportion: and in 1783, in some instances greater. The greater part

of

of the Sums Set to one Fuller, for Mr Read's
place, were loft, and abated Years after.
And if we take a retrospective view of the
remarkable Years 1784. 1785. 1786 & 1787,
in one or two of which, we certainly had
one of the most, shrewd, indefatigious, col
-lectors that the Town ever entrusted, I
mean Deacon David Wold, you will find
that the actual losses sustained by the
Town were nearly in the same proportion
that I have stated. I have adverted to
those seven Years, because they were by
far the heaviest the Town ever experienced,
in which the Monies several times granted
to exonorate the Town of Debt, were totally
absorbed by Fees and abatements. The
subsequent years to 1793 inclusive, being
recent, I need not particularize them, tho'
I presume the same consequences and
effects have resulted, and the abatements
been in equal proportion. If, Gentlemen,
you will take the trouble to examine
these Facts, you will find that my abatements
bear no comparison, even including the

one under consideration: In this view
therefore, it cannot be justly considered
as making a Precedent, by any impar
-tial citizen.

Give me leave now to consider the subject
in another point of view. The Office of
Collector, sufficiently arduous and difficult
at all times, has been rendered more so in
years past, by reason of the necessities of
the community, and the iniquitous Syst
-tem of anticipating the Taxes by paper
negotiations, which was adopted in con
-sequence. From this fruitful source,
the artful and designing have derived
the greatest advantages, while the honest
and unsuspecting have suffered the
greatest evils. Out of the whole number
of collectors alluded to, I believe there
are but a few, who, on a fair estimate
of the value of time, of unavoidable expen
-ces, and losses, can be considered as
gainers. I consider Mr Ebenezer Wold
as a sufferer, tho' not to the extent that
has been represented; for to my certain
knowledge, he discharged a large proportion
of the Monies due the Commonwealth

in paper when it was at market for four
shillings on the Pound, or less; and it must
be obvious it was purchased at this time,
because it is hardly presumeable, that a
Man of sensibility would suffer an Exe
:cution to remain in force against him
for the term he did, if he possessed the
means of discharging it. The same
Facts and reasonings, with a little vari
:ation, will apply to the cases of Mr White,
Mr Keyes, Mr Dimdell & Mr Mears; all
of whom met with losses by means of
the fluctuating State of the paper, tho'
they had the advantage of discharging them
:selves in the same medium. and I beleive
that several of these Gentlemen met with
losses by accepting orders drawn upon them
by the Treasurer, and being compelled to pay
them in actual Specie; but these were of no
great magnitude. But if we take into
view the benefit most of those Gentlemen
experienced, by obtaining abatements of
the whole nominal Sums assessed, (which
was in reality the case untill near the
close of their respective settlements, when
it was considered unreasonable, and corrected),

together with large orders for Fees, they cer
:tainly could not be very materially injur
:ed. Whoever will compare the cases of
these Gentlemen with mine, cannot
fail to discover a very material differance:
In the one case partial injuries and
losses may have been experienced: In the
other, great and manifest Sacrifices: Can
any reasonable Man, lay upon his Honour
and conscience, that a compliance with
my request will be making a Precedent
in favour of either of those collectors?

It is a little singular that the only
private Citizen who came forward with
even the Shadow of an objection before
the Town, should be Deacon Weld; a Gen
:tleman, who, of all others, could do it with
the ill'est grace: It was his good fortune
to be a Collector when no less than three
denominations of paper was made appli
:cable to the payment of Taxes, viz. Notes,
Treasurers orders, and Indents. No Man
could have better understood their nature
and use; and I venture to assert, because
I can prove it, no one could have improved
them more to his own emolument. If

If therefore, we consider the benefits he derived from the purchase of Orders, from abatements, & Fees, his situation will clearly appear an exception to every other. I am willing, however, that even this Gentleman's objections, (which were founded on lapse of time only,) shall meet all the attention they may appear to merit; and, if it is possible to conceive a compliance with my application will make a Precedent in his favour, I will give up the point without a murmer.

Having attended to every thing that has come to my knowledge, I feel perfectly safe in appealing again to your Justice, unless you have prejudged in the case; an idea, however, which, from Your Honour, and the Honour of the Town, I never can imbibe; because it would, in my opinion, be infinitely derogatory to both. And long experience has tended to rev it in my mind, that neither the Town, or their Selectmen, when well informed, can be unjust or ungrateful. I am, Gentlemen with the greatest respect, your most obedient and very humble Servant.

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 15 February 1794.

Hon^ble John Read Esq^r Chairman of the Selectmen.

Dear Sir,

Being of opinion that the business before the Selectmen, will be unavoidably contracted, between this and the Day usually assigned for the annual Town Meeting, in consequence of your and the Seavers being engaged in more indispensible and important concerns, I have taken the liberty to commit to writing my answer to every objection that has openly been offered, or even whispered, against my request of the 14 of October 1793. which, I shall be obliged, if you will please to communicate; and shall, notwithstanding, consider myself honoured, if I may be indulged with a personal interview.

I am, with the highest respect, regard and esteem, Dear Sir, your obedient & very humble Servant.

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 19 February 1794.

Honble John Read Esqr, chairman of the Selectmen

Dear Sir, I have had the honour of receiving your polite Letter of the 17th instant, and am much obliged by your assurance, "that you will communicate my Letter to the Selectmen."

But, my Dear Sir, I cannot conceal from you the concern I feel at observing the one with which you are pleased to conclude, that "if there should be a full board before March meeting, I shall attend to my request and give me notice. I would charitably hope, however, that by those expressions it is not seriously intended, to give me the go by. Four months have elapsed since this application was first submitted to the consideration of the Gentlemen Selectmen; in which period every objection has been made that ingenuity could invent, to counteract it; and, on my part, I have been impelled in a manner, to adduce the principal transactions of twelve years, under every possible disadvantage for want of records, to repell them; in doing this I have employed about 40 pages, and in which, I humbly presume,

if Truth and reason have any weight, I have succeeded. Under these circumstances, my Friend, would it be reasonable and proper to leave the business for future discussion? The object is indeed but trifling, and what in better Days I would at once have relinquished rather than met a single objection from any respectable quarter; but, situate as I am, in consequence of the part I have acted during the very period I have been reviewing, and the misfortunes that have attended me, could any reasonable Man desire me to do it? It is I conceive worthy of remark, that through the whole of my Public connection with the Town, no one has been able to charge me with even a wish to injure them knowingly; this, my Dear Sir, with the Love, Peace, Friendship, and harmony, that subsisted through the whole of that long period, is a ground of consolation to me infinitely superior to Public Honours, private Wealth, or even

Crowns or Diadems! Shall it ever be said that a Man who studiously endeavoured to contribute all in his power, to promote & ~~perpetuate~~ those great and essential Blessings to a civil community; who laboured incessantly for its Honour and Interests; and who invented every system that experience could suggest, to place its Prudentials on a respectable footing, shall ultimately be treated with unkindness? Forbid it Heaven! Forbid it every noble and magnanimous principle.

I am with all possible respect and Esteem, Dear Sir, Your most Obt Servt

Jno Clarke

P.S. My Letters of December 31. of the 15th inst, with the one I have now the honour of transmitting, are intended to be addressed to You as a public character; I beg, Sir, that You will so consider them, and permit them at least, to have the inspection of that respectable Body of which you are the head. Their candour, I trust, will shield them from the severity of criticism.

J.C.

Rev'd. Mr. William Emerson, Roxbury 21. February 1794.

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 17th instant came to hand the same evening; previous to which Thomas had set out from home, with such necessaries as had been prepared for him with a view of sleeping in Boston, and setting out from thence, on the next morning, in the Littleton Stage, for Harvard; I, however, recalled him in time to prevent a fruitless journey.

I observe with great regret the resolution you have adopted, to take no more Pupils; because I had fondly anticipated his compleating the term of one year under your wise tuition, and in Madam Grosvenor's examplary Family; but I must confess, all circumstances considered, your decision is wise and judicious.

Permit me, my respected Friend, to offer you my sincere Thanks, for the very kind attentions me and my Son have experienced from you since I first committed him to your care, and to assure you I shall embrace the first favourable

Crowns or Diadems! Shall it ever be said that a Man who studiously endeavoured to contribute all in his power, to promote & perpetuate those great and essential Blessings to a civil community; who laboured incessantly for its Honour and Interests; and who invented every system that experience could suggest, to place its Prudentials on a respectable footing, shall ultimately be treated with unkindness? Forbid it Heaven! Forbid it every noble and magnanimous principle.

I am with all possible respect and Esteem, Dear Sir, Your most Obt Servt

Jno Clarke

P.S. My Letters of December 31. of the 15th inst. with the one I have now the honour of transmitting, are intended to be addressed to You as a Public character; I beg, Sir, that You will so consider them, and permit them at least to have the inspection of that respectable Body of which you are the head. Their candour, I trust, will shield them from the severity of criticism.

J.C.

Rev'd. Mr. William Emerson, Roxbury 21. February 1794.

Dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 17th instant came to hand the same evening; previous to which Thomas had set out from home, with such necessaries as had been procured for him with a view of sleeping in Boston, and setting out from thence, on the next morning, in the Littleton Stage, for Harvard; I, however, recalled him in time to prevent a fruitless journey.

I observe with great regret the resolution you have adopted, to take no more Pupils; because I had fondly anticipated his compleating the term of one year under your wise tuition, and in Madam Grosvenor's examplary Family; but I must confess, all circumstances considered, your decision is wise and judicious.

Permit me, my respected Friend, to offer you my sincere Thanks, for the very kind attentions me and my son have experienced from you since I first commited him to your care, and to assure you I shall embrace the first favourable

occasion of making you a visit, agreeable to your friendly invitation.

By Thomas's representations to me, I understand he is indebted to you; for this reason I made provision to discharge the Demand when he waited on you in Boston, on the 7th instant, and I lament that your delicacy so far prevailed as to prevent your receiving it, agreeable to the directions I gave him to that effect. The promotion of Learning has ever been most near my heart, especially as it relates to the future welfare of my children: I, therefore; have always provided for the charge of it with the greatest alacrity, I never gruged any reasonable expence; And, my Friend, the untoward events of my life, have tended at least to confirm me in the propriety of these principles. You need not, therefore, to have felt your self under any restraint; for Learning, when well improved, is not nearly a private, but in reality, a Public blessing. I am with great regard & esteem,

Dear Sir, Your Affectionate Friend & Ble Servant

Tho Clarke

P.S. I shall be much obliged, Sir, if you will be so good to present my profound respects to Madam Grosvenor and Family, and assure them, that the very kind attentions Thomas has experienced from them, have made impressions on his and my mind which no length of time will be able to eradicate. Thomas desires your & their acceptance of his most affectionate regards.

No. 10. Roxbury 3 March 1794.

Sir,

Your Letter of this days date is received. I shall defer for the present making any comments upon it. But I request you will be so good to return me the list of abatements I exhibited to the Assessors, on the 14th Day of October last, that I may make a proper use of them. The letters are at their disposal, and I hope they will not dishonour the files in the Town Clerk's Office.

I am, Sir, Your real Friend

Tho. Clarke

Mr Stephen Williams Junr.

Roxbury 25 February 1794

Alexander Hodgdon Esq^r,
Cashier of the Union Bank,

Sir, Your Notification directed to Tho:mas Clarke, of the 7th of December past, has been duly received; and he would have appeared, and transfered the Bank Stock agreeable to your requisition had he not been kept in Suspense by reason of the unsettled State of Clarke & Gay's affairs, which were assigned eleven months since, to a proportion of which Property they are entitled in consideration of the Note for 200 Dollars still due the Union Bank, as will appear by the assignment, and discharge in our profession. On this occasion therefore, permit us to state our situation for the con:sideration of the Honourable President & Di:rectors. In the course of the unfortunate Year 1792 we obtained a much larger Stock than we had ever done in any one year before; and spared no efforts on our part to manufacture it in the best manner; indeed our business wore the most promising aspect untill the Autumn, when, to our great regret, a large

proportion of our most useful help was taken off from their labour by the Small pox; our Sales were almost totally prevented, and our prospects blasted by an act of Providence, which, we trust, no human wisdom or foresight could have guarded against or prevented: Under these circumstances we were compelled to adopt the hard alternative of closing our business, a business we had pursued for a number of years with Honour and reputation, that we had greatly extended and improved, and rendered of Public as well as private utility, by employing between 30 and 40 persons through the Year, and exporting our manufactured Gloves to al:most every part of America. For these reasons we beg leave to submit to the consideration of the Gentlemen, whether they will be pleased to accept a proportion:al dividend of our Stock and Credits as:signed, including the Bank Stock above re:ferred to, and exonorate us from the Demand in question, the only one that has not been provided for; this, Sir, will be an act of genevine magnanimity, and it will excite in our minds the warmest sentiments of gratitude. We are with the greatest respect, Sir, your Obt. hble Servants T. Clarke, J. Gay

Mr. Samuel Wait Roxbury. March 4. 1794.

Dear Sir,

On the 18th of December last, on looking over my Books, I examined an Account settled between your late Honored Father and me, on the 28th Day of October 1782, in which I discovered what I believe to be a great error against my-self. He has, long since, taken his departure from this World of errors, fallibility, disappointments, and Trials; and I trust arrived at those blissful Mansions, which, I firmly believe, are prepared for all who conduct uprightly. My long and intimate acquaintance with him; the various negotiations that took place between us, and our last affectionate, though painful interview, stamped him in my mind, this, Honest man, the Virtuous and upright Citizen, and the generous and firm Friend. When this settlement was made, I venture to affirm, he was by no means satisfied; it was done in haste which is the only excuse that

that can be offered on my part for the injury I sustained: on his part, I am sure, no blame ought or indeed can be alledged. Under these impressions, I have drawn the account in three seperate views, "No. 1. Shewing how the following account was originally settled."

"No. 2. Shewing how the same account ought to have been settled, and pointing out an error."

"No. 3. Stateing an account against the Estate of Mr David Wait, deceas'd, founded on the above error." By which it appears, that the sum of £ 59. 2. 9. was actually due me, October 28. 1782; and Intrest for the same to 28 February 1794 £. 19. 15. 10 ¼ makes the ballance in my favour £ 78. 18. 7 ¼. I request, Sir, that you will be so good to consider this subject; and also to lay this Letter with the account inclosed before Your Honored Mother. Should you or She feel the least disposition

in your minds, I will at once agree to submit the Justice and propriety of it, to the determination of any one or more Gentlemen who are acquainted with Accounts, that we shall mutually agree on. I am, Sir, your real Friend, & obedient Servant Tho Clarke.

Roxbury 7 March 1794

Thomas Williams Junr Esqr

Sir, The very polite and obliging conduct of Mr Aaron Davis, by receiving my Note on the first of March 1793, laid me under the strongest obligations to provide for the payment of it, to him personally; - Those sentiments dictated my letter to you of the 18th of January last. But as the Gentlemen Selectmen have thought proper to assume the Demand in behalf of the Town, who, upon their own principles in this very transaction, are, & in fact were, at the time of making the Note, largely indebted to me, I feel it my duty to revoke my request relative to the disposition of the Monies that have or may come to your hands on the Obligations inclosed in my letter of the 5th of November last; and I beg leave to request that you will have the goodness to pay the same to Deacon Samuel Sumner toward his Execution against me; I am, Sir, your Obt Servant

Tho Clarke

~~No 10~~ - No 11.

Roxbury 11 March 1794.

Mr Stephen Williams Junr, Town Clerk,

Dear Sir, I did not conceive it expedient to make a more particular reply to your letter of the 3d instant than what I had the pleasure of communicating at the time; and, indeed, the respect I have uniformly had for the Gentlemen Selectmen, (particularly with whom I have conversed, living on Mr Chauncy Road & Mr Davis, from whom I have experienced many acts of friendship and regard) has restrained me from entering minutely into all the measures the Gentlemen have thought proper to adopt, by which I feel materially affected. But as it has been my happy lott (through the goodness of that benevolent being, whose Wisdom and benignity is experienced throughout his boundless creation,) to be born and educated in a Country, and under a Civil Constitution, where every Man has an unalienable Right, to think for himself, to speak, and write his sentiments with becoming freedom, as well as to point out the injuries he experiences, I feel it my duty on this occasion, through you, again to improve this important privelege, by another address to the Gentlemen Selectmen, in answer to the cold reply they requested you to make, "that they have taken under their consideration the list of abatements I laid before them, and their conclusion was not to grant any abatement thereon," without assigning a single reason for such a "conclusion."

It appears to me most clearly, that for the purpose of deciding all questions

relative to abatements to Collectors, and the internal police of the corporation, the Select-men (where no Assessors are chosen) are ex-officio the Judges, and as completely competent, in the view of the Law, as the Judges of the Supreme Judiciary of this and the United States are, to decide upon any question that regularly comes before them. If this idea is well founded, may I not with strict propriety, examine the analogy, and point out wherein the conduct of the Gentleman relative to me, militates with those principles of impartiality, candour and moderation, which are justly considered characteristick of the fairest, firmest, and independance of the high Source from which I derive the example I have in view? The experience and observation of every rational citizen will evince, that those high and important duties are discharged with the utmost Dignity: Every Suitor is heard with attention; his Testimony is fairly and honourably canvassed; and the arguments of himself or counsel, are heard with candour; and however unimportant, a Trial, even if it takes days, meets the attention it merits. Witnesses are examined face to face, and opportunity given to cross examine, and confront the evidence adduced: And, when the Court decide a question, they do it openly, and,

with the greatest solemnity, and give their reasons for the opinions they deliver; that every citizen may animadvert upon them, if they think proper, and Judge of their propriety.

I will at once concede, that the deliberations, and determinations, of the Gentlemen Selectmen, cannot be exactly similar to those of a Court of Law; nor is it necessary they should be; but I contend, that those Gentlemen rely upon Testimony, Records, and examinations, relative to Facts, their proceedings ought to be equally open and fair; and, that to call upon, and examine Persons, obviously interested in misrepresenting, disaffected, or of notorious immoral characters, behind a Mans back, and introducing such for evidence, is unfair, and uncharitable, and what cannot be supported by any just precedent or example whatever. The account given by Mr Joseph Smith, may perhaps be a pretty just one; I certainly was to account for whatever Monies I recovered over and above the Taxes due the Town, and, of the whole negotiation I could adduce the Testimony of Joseph Ruggles Esqr & Mr Jonathan Champney, either of whom can say, but any good reason can be assigned for the enquiry? I certainly came forward in the first instance, and frankly stated the fact, and I venture to assert, that the Gentlemen had not the least reason to disbelieve it; and I

also venture to assert, that upon the Gentleman's own principles, in assuming, in behalf of the Town, my Note given to Mr Aaron Davis June, March 1. 1793, they ought to have allowed this Demand; especially if they had considered how long I have laid out of the Money, and the trouble and expence I had been at in endeavouring to recover it. As to the declaration of Nathaniel Scott, "that he had paid Mr Clarke, and would swear to it," it cannot be considered as deserving a serious refutation. He has twice been convicted before a Court of Justice, once on his own confession, and once upon proof of the Crime of Stealing, and of consequence, incapable of giving his testimony. What credence can ought to be given to such declarations? Can Gentlemen be serious when they introduce them as evidence? I conceive the answers to be obvious, and I leave them to the Gentleman's own reflections. I could easily pursue this investigation, and disclose the idea's that have been suggested in private circles, by Persons of real respectability, though known to be disaffected towards me, (for what reason God only knows!) but I wish as far as possible to draw a veil over insinuations so void of candour, and replete with unkindness.

It would be an extraordinary

instance of Human prudence, circumspection, and rectitude, and, perhaps, without a parallel in the annals of Man, if in the course of twelve years that a Man had served any Civil community whatever, he might not be chargeable with many errors and imperfections. I am by no means insensible of mine during the period I have been reviewing; but I confess, I hoped, as it was the Resolution of the Town for a series of years, to honour me with their free and voluntary suffrages for Offices, for which it is unnecessary now to mention how little I was qualified, my defects thus long exercised, would have found the same indulgence aswell when out as in Office, especially when I reflect (as I certainly do with a degree of pleasure) that the Honour and Interest of the Town was always near my heart, and, that to promote and establish them, was with me a primary object, and the governing principle of all my actions. [illegible]

[illegible]

These, Sir, are the sentiments that have occured to

[illegible] to me on contemplating the commencement, progress, and issue of the business, which the Gentlemen Select men took four Months to consider; and this is the sum of the treatment extended to a Man in whom the Town have placed the most implicit confidence; and for whom, if their Records may be considered of any validity, they have had the greatest affection; and who, tho' extremely unfortunate, is conscious he has in no degree forfeited those marks of approbation with which he has been repeatedly honoured.

I am Sir, with all due respect for the Gentlemen Selectmen & yourself,

Their & your Obt Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 7 March 170

Mr Stephen Williams Junr

Dear Sir,

I did not conceive it expedient to make any other reply to your letter of the 3 inst at the time, than barely to acknowledge the receipt of it, to request of my self that I had been four months before the Gentlemen Selectmen, and express my idea relative to the communications I have had the honor of making to them.

But as the Gentlemen started new objections to my request, in the conversation with which they honored me, on Saturday afternoon the first instant, and having pledged myself to reply to every one that had or could be made, I embrace this occation to state them, and make such answer as I conceive the subject will fully justify.

That Joseph Smith had said that he settled with me by Ebenezer Bartlett's note and that if the Monies were recovered I was to account to him for the ballance over and above the [illegible] And that Nathaniel Scott had said, "That he had paid me, and would swear to it."

Mr Smith certainly gave a very honest ac-
count of this transaction; and I would ask wherein
it militates with the account I first gave of
the negotiation? Had I endeavoured to conceal
it there might have been some ground for the
enquiry; but certainly there was none, un-
less the Gentlemen had reason to suspect me
of misrepresentation; And the settlement
said to have been made could not, upon
mercantile principles, have effect until
the Note was paid. But even upon the Gen-
tlemen's own principles, which are fully ex-
plained by their assuming my Note given
to Mr Aaron Davis on the first Day of March
1793 they ought to have allowed this De-
mand. Indeed, it appears to me, if the Gen-
tlemen had considered how many Years
I have lain out of the Money, and how
much I had expended in endeavouring to recov-
er it, (not less than £5. or £6.) the Justice
and Propriety of my request would have
appeared more strong than the one I have ad-
dressed to them.

For Gentlemen to say, as they certainly have
in the one case most explicitly, that they will
protect the Property of one Citizen; and, at the
same time, that another (a real sufferer too) is not
entitled to any consideration, notwithstanding
the facts are fully proved by authentick Record
and Documents, will, I believe, appear to the
World very extraordinary. In consequence
of the Gentlemen's determination, I have
thought it expedient to alter an arrange-
ment I had made to extinguish my Note,
as will appear by my Letter to Thomas Wil-
liams Jun.r Esq of this date, a copy of which
I inclose for the information of the Selectmen
and I beg the Gentlemen will be pleased
to take such measures as they shall judge
expedient to recover it; or, if they think pro-
per, I am ready to submit the case to the deter-
mination of any three disinterested Gen-
tlemen, whether in equity I owe one farthing of
the Demand; let them only be impartial and
I will submit the nomination to themselves.

With regard to Nathaniel Scott's declaration, I can hardly believe the Gentleman who mentioned it to be serious. What ever character he may have borne, it is notorious that Scott has been twice convicted before a Court of Justice, (once upon his own confession, and once upon the clearest proof) of the infamous crime of stealing: What credence therefore, can be given to such Testimony to defeat an unfortunate Man of his just dues? If Gentlemen rely upon such declarations, from such a character, I am willing they shall improve it; but if the whole is brought into view merely to enhance their merit with the Town by defeating as far as such a servant as they can boast of, for mere *Vaux populi** or any other sinister motive whatever, I shall not grudge them the pleasure, let them improve it all they can. But, sir, if the Gentlemen who have

have chosen you for the medium of communication, are disposed to meet me upon fair and honourable principles, I pledge myself to meet them, and, if I can not obviate every manly objection, I will set down contented. I flatter myself, Sir, that you will have the goodness to communicate this Letter, and believe me to be your real Friend.

Tho Clarke.

---

* It uniformly has been, is now, and I trust always will be, my firm and unalterable determination, to treat every Gentleman who sustains any Public Office, with all that deference and respect which is due to his station in the community; and this determination has influenced my conduct in all my addresses to the Gentlemen Selectmen of Roxbury. But when I consider an example derived from the highest source, the Supreme Judiciary of this and the United States, sitting whole days, and candidly and impartially hearing the testimony and the arguments of their Suitors, and openly and publicly giving their opinions, with the reasons and principles on which they are formed, &c. &c. &c. I consider, that for the space of four months the Gentlemen had an application of mine under con-

consideration; that they appear to have enquired of others, and even given credit to the declarations of Persons either interested or disaffected, without giving me an opportunity of confronting such partial Testimony; that they finally rejected my request without giving a single reason for it, they must suppose me destitute of sensibility not to feel it, and as spiritless as a mule not to remonstrate against it: However high in my esteem several of them are, from personal and Public considerations, it is certainly a duty I owe to myself to point out with freedom what I conceive to be inconsistant and uncandid on their parts, and hard and injurious on mine: And thanks to that Benevolent BEING! whose goodness is extended to all his creatures throughout his boundless creation, I live in a Country, and under a Government where every Man has a Right, to think, speak, and write his sentiments with FREEDOM: provided, that Truth, Reason and propriety form the basis of all his positions; whether this has been the case as to the subject I have been considering, I will submit to the impartial World to Judge.

Roxbury 11 March 1794.

John Lucas Esqr.

Dear Sir, Permit me to offer you my sincere thanks for the very generous present you was pleased to make me on the 10th instant, of Fifteen Dollars and twenty nine cents in Gold, and to assure you, it excites in my mind and Mrs Clarke's the warmest sentiments of gratitude. As this is the only tribute I have to offer, let me intreat your acceptance of it, and to add my fervent wishes, that that kind and benevolent Being whose goodness is experienced throughout his boundless creation may reward your philanthrophy an hundred fold, by granting you to enjoy Health, Peace, and every Earthly enjoyment here, and, what I am persuaded you will consider infinitely preferable, an immortal state of pure Felicity when the present Scene of Trial and affliction shall be closed.

I am with the truest respect,

Dear Sir,

Your Obedt & very Hble Servant

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 10 March 1794.

Deacon Samuel Sumner,

Sir, Since the day on which my misfortunes became apparent, there has no demand existed against me that has occasioned me more concern than Yours. It early excited my attention, and I would cheerfully have availed myself of the only means in my power to have extinguished it. But alas! some mistaken policy, (guided perhaps by insidious insinuations and counsells) has hitherto prevailed over the most obvious dictates of Humanity, Reason, and common Justice.

The Letters I have wrote to your attorney, and to yourself, together with the conversations that have passed between you and me since the 25th Day of april last, all bespeak the rectitude of my heart on the one hand, and your cordiality on the other. To prove the first, I cheerfully offered "to relinquish every thing that could possibly be spared from the immediate support of my Family:" and on your part you "promised you would agree to reasonable terms; that you would not disturb

my Family, or prevent my engaging in Business." And this you reiterated, freely and voluntarily, at my House, on the 3d of December last, and, of your own accord, gave Mrs Clarke and me an affectionate invitation "to make you & Mrs Sumner a visit:" assuring us, "that both would be as happy to see us as ever." A declaration so explicit and manly; an invitation so kind and affectionate, coming from a Gentleman who professes the Christian, and the Gentleman in an eminent degree, naturally led me to anticipate an happy accommodation, and that I should have been at liberty to avail myself of the benefits proffered to me by my Friends; be in a way for providing for the comfortable support of an Incent and virtuous Family, and in a reasonable time, of extinguishing every honest Demand against me. This appeared to me to be the most rational plan that I could adopt under all circumstances, and it also appeared to be your determination at the time to adopt it. But what are Human affections and engagements! Let every Man of Sensibility judge from the following fact: On the sixth of December (only three days after the above

conversation took place), Mr Doggett came to my House, and, by your order (as he affirmed) "directed Mr Sheriff Thayer to levy your Execution on every thing in it that the Law would allow him to take." which direction, under the counsel and advice of your Attorney Mr Williams, was carried into effect, in the evening of the same day, to the great disquietude of my Family. Delicacy forbids my making any remarks on this transaction; if you can reconcile it with those principles which You profess, I shall rest satisfied, however derogatory they may appear to others.

Let me now ask you, Deacon Sumner, what are your future views and prospects? and, whatever they may be, let me intreat you to carry them into effect, unless you mean to attempt (for I firmly hope and believe you or your advisors are not able to effect it), to starve as virtuous a family as Yours, or any other you can mention. On my part I am willing to agree to any reasonable terms; for which purpose I will meet you at any time, and place you may be pleased to assign, & before any disinterested Gentleman, and make my propositions; - if those should be admissible, I will at once accede to them; if otherwise, it is for you to consider the consequences. But, Sir, it is impossible in the nature of things for you to derive any benefit from persisting in the measure you have for almost a year past, to keep me as it were in chains: While on the other hand, if you will receive all you can now obtain, and in my power to pay, and grant me a generous time to extinguish the remainder, you will stand a fair chance to recover the whole; and I venture to predict, it will ultimately redound more to your honour than any other in your power to adopt.

I am, Sir, your real Friend,
& Obt Servant
Tho. Clarke

Roxbury 18 March 1794

Revd Mr William Emerson

Dear Sir, When I last had the pleasure of see-
-ing you, at your rural retirement at Harvard,
on the 27th ult, your generosity and goodness
led you to calculate the state of my account
with yourself and Madam Grosvenor, for my
Son Thomas's tuition and boarding, greatly
in my favour. I have since examined it,
and find there is still a ballance due you
of £7 16. as will appear by the particulars
hereto annexed, which, you may rest assur-
-ed, I shall embrace the earliest opportunity
to pay, with many Thanks for the experience
I have had of your obliging attentions.

I request you will have the goodness to
present my respectful compliments to
Madam Grosvenor and Family, and believe
me to be, Reverend & Dear Sir,

Your affectionate Friend,
and very humble Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 18 March 1794

Thomas Williams Junr Esqr

Sir

I am truly concerned that Mr Jonathan
Parker has been committed by force of my
execution against him. In my letter of
November 5. 1793, I say "You will receive
herewith a number of Obligations Vacuum
which I request you to collect, if practicable
by which, and the subsequent parts of the same
letter, I certainly did not mean to convey an
idea that I wished to carry matters to such
extremities; but on the contrary, that, altho
I wished to obtain my just dues, if the Obli-
-gors were able to pay, yet it was my desire
that every person should be treated with
delicacy and tenderness, and all unnecess-
-ary expence avoided. I have therefore to
request, that you will be so obliging to
give directions, to the Officer or Officers em-
-ployed, to return the Executions not satisfied
to return the Executions not satisfied, where the Monies cannot be ob-
-tained; and that you will be so good to
liberate Mr Parker on such terms as you
shall judge proper. I am, Sir, Your Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 25 March 1794.

Mr Samuel Waitt.

Dear Sir, I had the pleasure of writing you on the 24th of August & 16th of September 1793, in both of which I endeavoured to point out my own situation; my wishes relative to the Debit due to Mr Jacob Davis from Clarke & Gay, in which you are interested; and, tho' You have not thought proper to attend to any one proposal I suggested, Yet You have seen by the event, that I was not altogether mistaken in my idea's. On the 4th instant I also wrote You, instancing my idea's of a most palpable error in a settlement made between your late Honored and esteemed Father & me October 28. 1788. To this You have been so good to say "you would attend," and you may remember your promise to this effect was the condition on which I agreed to sign the Order on the Committee of the Creditors on the 9th instant; but altho 18 Days have elapsed, I have not had the pleasure of seeing you upon the subject; I presume your numerous avocations have prevented it. You are not insen-

sible, my Friend, that for years there subsisted an uncommon degree of affection and true regard between your Father and me: His uniform conduct to the end of life proves beyond a doubt the sincerity of it on his part; and conscious I am I have in no instance forfeited the Friendship of his Family since his departure; Why then I should you hesitate to come to an equitable accommodation? Is it possible that my misfortune should eradicate that Friendship you have uniformly professed for me and my Family? Do you entertain doubts upon the subject? have I not proposed a plain and obvious method to remove them, by submitting the statement to the determination of impartial Gentlemen? Does this discover the least desire of obtaining any undue advantage? Have I not offered to submit it to the decision of Gentlemen who you know can not be supposed to have imbibed any improper bias in my favour? The answer to these queries must be obvious to every unprejudiced mind; and I presume they at last discover

a frank, open and generous disposition. I will now go farther; If you will submit the whole to Judge Lowell, I will agree that you shall declare on Your Honour all you know upon this subject, and will agree to stand to his decision; can any thing be more fair and honourable than this proposition?

I beg leave, Sir, to submit my case once more to your consideration; at all events, let me intreat your attention as soon as may be any way convenient to you. Twelve month is long, too long for any Man to remain unemployed, or at least not usefully so: My family are too near and dear to me to see them suffer; and every thing that remains unsettled tends to procrastinate my engaging in that business which is absolutely necessary to their future well fare.

I am, Sir, Your real Friend

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 26 March 1794

William Hunt Esqr

Dear Sir,

When I wrote you on the 28th of November & 17th of January last, I was ignorant of the difficulties which then awaited you, otherwise I should not have given you the trouble. As I trust those have in a good measure subsided, I beg leave to renew my request contained in the former; and in particular that part of it which relates to the papers transmitted to you in my several letters of May 14, July 3d and 24. as I am accountable for some of them, and am called on for the Money. I am, Sir, your very hble Servt

Tho Clarke

April 7. 1794.

M. D. Salimbeni.

Sir, I have considered the conversation that passed between you and me a few days since, relative to your occupying my House for a longer term; and, judging from the general tenour of the information recently received from Europe, the West India's, the Mediterranean, as well as from the present state of the politicks of this Country, am of opinion it will be impracticable for you, your Lady and Family, to sail for Guadaloupe with safety for some months to come, most probably not untill the next Autumn. Under these circumstances (tho' considering the state of my Family it would have been agreeable to me to resume the whole House,) I am willing to accommodate you during your stay in America, if it does not exceed the time I have mentioned. But I conceive it will be proper to make some new arrangements in consequence, prior to an ultimate determination upon the subject. To this end I beg leave to propose a conversation any day in the present week you shall please to appoint before the term last agreed on expires, and

that M. Delesdernier may be present, if agreeable. With Esteem and regard,

I am, Sir, Your humble Servant

Tho Clarke

(Not sent.) Roxbury 9 April 1794

Sir,

Herewith I send you my account for the use of my Stable since the first Day of November last. It is now to lett, and you may improve it if you will give as much as another person, otherwise it must be cleared. I am, Sir, Your ble Servt

Tho Clarke

April 9. Wrote M. Delesdernier requesting him to attend tomorrow, to interpret between D. Salimbeni & me relative to a new contract respecting the House.

April 14. 1794.

Sir,

Madam D. Salimbeni informs me, that she is acquainted a Letter has recently come to your hands, which she conceives may be from her Mother in Guadaloupe, and, if so, that it contains a Bill of Exchange of great importance to her. She speaks but little English, and that very unintelligible, and I may perhaps have misunderstood her meaning; but as she desires me to make the enquiry, I shall be much obliged if you will be so good to acquaint me, for her Satisfaction, with what you know upon the Subject, and if you have seen the Letter, whether it has been delivered, to any Person, and to whom. I am, Sir, Your very hble Servt,

Tho Clarke

Thomas Williams Junr Esqr

Roxbury 16 April 1794.

Mr David Wolf

Dear Sir, There can be nothing more natural than for Parents to feel solicitous for the happiness and welfare of their Children: I have uniformly considered mine as so many trusts reposed in me by a kind Providence, and made the improvement of their minds, and the regulation of their morals the primary object of all my conduct towards them; and the choicest scenes of my life have at least tended to convince me of the propriety of it. My oldest Son Thomas will be 14 Years of age the 16th of June next: His constitution has been extremely delicate through life, owing principally to a severe sickness with which he was visited in the Year 1783; and, tho' his constitution has acquired a good degree of firmness by age, and will I hope become still stronger, yet I am of opinion he never will be able to perform a course of hard manual labour. I am therefore desirous that he shall learn the Bookbinding business; and I know of no Gentleman to whom I would commit him with more chearfulness and satisfaction than Yourself; because I am persuaded he would always experience a treatment from you and your Family proportionate to his merits. Impressed with these sentiments, I take

leave to offer him to you, and shall be happy if it is convenient to you to take him; but if otherwise, I shall be much obliged if you will have the goodness to direct him to such of your Brethren of the same profession as you shall judge will do their duty towards him. I conceive it would be improper for me to recommend him; but as Thomas has been under the tuition of the Revd William Emerson, and in Madam Grosvenors very amiable Family, at Harvard, since the 15th of June last, that Gentlemans opinion of him may perhaps be deemed a sufficient one.

I therefore inclose his letter upon the subject for your information; as this, however, is a Document I highly value, I request you will be so good to preserve it for me. With lively sentiments of esteem,

I am, Dear Sir,
Your very humble Servant
Tho Clarke

Roxbury 25 April 1794.

Mr Moses Grant

Sir, I have always considered that misfortunes are the common lot of humanity, and, that it is a duty incumbent on those affected by them, to support with becoming resignation and fortitude under their weight, however hard: And I have heard it remarked "that Ingratitude is a vice inherent in a Republick", but I confess I never could believe it untill melancholy experience convinced me of its reality.

My misfortunes have resulted from several sources, but principally from my having fallen into the hands of greedy and relentless avarice on the one hand, and having devoted the prime of my days to the service of the Community on the other: These two have tended to involve me, to compell me to avail myself of a credit beyond my immediate resources, to occasion an unkind resentment from several Persons, and ultimately an unhappy event to me and my family.

When my situation became apparent, I, as soon as possible, contemplated the means

of extricating myself, and my good Friend Mr Alexander, with a genevine Spirit of Friendship, generously offered me the aid I needed, provided my Credetors would agree to reasonable terms of accommoda-tion; but alas! a mistaken policy, or perhaps resentement, has hitherto pre-vailed to circumvent my carrying into effect the plan I had proposed, and I have in consiquence remained inac-tive for more than twelve months. Added to all this, I labour under a debi-lity which renders me unable to per-form any kind of hard manual labour.

This, my Friend, is a true statement of the causes & effects of my misfortunes; and, tho' I certainly feel the strongest de-sire to discharge myself honourably of every Just Demand, I am deprived of making use of the only means in my power to do it.

Under these circumstances I have considered of a plan which I now beg leave, in confidance, to lay before you, for your consideration. I conceive that in consiquence of the present em-

embarrassments attending Commerce, (and I see no probability of their ter-minating very soon, if we should fortunately escape being involved in a War,) American Manufactures in general, and in particular the paper staining business, will be in great demand, and may be extended to a degree that will render them of Pub-lic as well as private utility, and for this and the foregoing reasons, I would chearfully engage in it, if I can do it upon such terms as to make it a mutual benefit, under the patronage of a Gentleman who would be willing I should derive a benefit in proportion to the labour and attention I may pay to it. I am unacquainted with this business, but I conceive, with the assistance of one able hand, with a competant num-ber of others, I should soon be able to carry it on to advantage, and I pre-sume you have a Stock adequate to the purpose. I have the necessary

accommodations for boarding all the help that will be wanted, and by an arrangement I have recently made, I have sufficient room for the purpose of carrying on every part of the work, as well as vending the Stock when completed for sale.

This, Sir, is a rough sketch of a plan I have recently contemplated; I submit it to you, and, if it shall meet your idea; I will wait on you at any time you shall please to appoint, and will enter into a more particular discussion upon the subject; all I can now say is, should it be adopted, if close application & strict attention can render the pursuit effectual, they shall not be wanting on the part of, Sir, Your unfortunate Friend, and Obt Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 26 April 1794.

Deacon Samuel Sumner

Sir, I wrote you on the 28 of May 1793, and on the 10 of March last, on the subject of your Demand against me; and altho' I expressed the strongest desire of being placed in a situation where I could with safety engage in some line of business, by the pursuit of which, I might be able to pay you in a reasonable time, I have to lament that you have not thought proper even to favour me with a reply. And I regret still more, that Deacon Sumner should be almost the only Gentleman who stands out to this period of time, notwithstanding the pains I have taken to convince him of my solicitude upon the subject. Had I discovered an inattentive disposition; had I endeavoured to vindicate myself from the most unkind insinuations upon other than fair and just principles; or had I made use of your Monies without at least your tacit consent, which I conceive to be fairly deducible from the settlement we made March 16. 1790, and the more explicit consent of the Gentlemen

to whom it was owaing, I should not be surprized at your hesitation thus long. But, Sir, waveing all the observations that might with propriety be made upon the baneful idea's that have been suggested, some of which you must be sensible are totally unfounded, and only propagated to gratify an uncharitable disposition, to say no worse, permit me one more to declare that notwithstanding all that has passed, I feel most sincerely solicitous to pay you the last farthing; that it is utterly impossible I should ever do it while I am held in durest; and that if you will give me a generous chance for the purpose, I will make it the primary object of my most Zealous endeavours.

The maxim, "Do by others as you would like to be done by.", however antiquated, is, in my opinion, in full force, and as binding as ever. I beg you Sir, to apply it upon the present occasion, and believe me to be, your real Friend & Obt Servt Tho Clarke

Apl 28. 1794. Wrote Jos: Ruggles Esqr upon the subject of my demand against the Estate of the late Mr David Wait.

April 29. 1794

Thomas Williams Jr Esqr

Sir. Mr James Burrill has promised me, "that if I will consent to stop the action against him & take a new obligation he will certainly pay it by instalments in the course of the Summer., In order therefore to spare expence, I consent to his request, provided he pays you the Costs already accrued, and request you will be so good to take a new obligation in favour of, Sir,

Your Obt Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 29 April 1794.

Mr David Wolfe

Dear Sir,

Our Friend Mr Gay was so good to communicate your verbal message in reply to the line I sent you on the 16 instant, in pursuance of which I hoped to have had the pleasure of waiting on you the last week, but suppose the weather, and your numerous avocations prevented it, as indeed Mrs Clarke's indisposition, and business I have been engaged in at home have prevented my coming to Boston. By what I have already said upon the subject, you are acquainted with my ideas relative to my Son Thomas; in addition to which I would only observe, that if would be agreeable to me he should live a reasonable time with you upon triall; that if you & he are satisfied, I would wish him to be bound to you; and, as he has made considerable progress in learning; is decently clothed, and very young to enter on his apprenticeship, and in consequence will probably be of more utility to you, I shall hope you will feel disposed to find him the usual clothing; and I shall also desire, that if your business, the regulations of your Family, and other circumstances will admit of it, he may be permitted to spend

the Sabbaths at my House. If these ideas meet your approbation, he shall engage in your service any day you may please to mention. With sentiments of respect

I am, Sir, Your Obt Servant

Sho Clarke

Roxbury 29 April 1794.

Mr Stephen Williams Jr Town Clerk.

Dear Sir,

I request, you will please to record "Elizabeth, Daughter of Thomas & Lois Clarke, born April 24. 1794." for which I will pay you when we meet.

I am, Sir, Your Obt Servant

Sho. Clarke

Roxbury 3 May 1794.

Deacon Samuel Sumner

Sir, The maxim "do by others as you would like to be done by under similar circumstances" however antiquated and neglected it, in my opinion is in full force, and as obligatory as ever upon every member of civil society. The Laws of the community are wisely calculated to secure the Rights, Liberty, and Property of every individual of which it is composed; and, when they are enforced with humanity and tenderness, they produce the most salutary effects: But when, on the contrary, they are resorted to for the purpose of gratifying an uncharitable, uncandid disposition; when they are directed by a spirit of resentment, they at once become the engines of oppression, and tend to interrupt that harmony and good will so essential to the happiness and welfare of Society; because, instead of promotating the great purposes of their institution, they operate as a retaliation which never ought to be practiced but between parties hostile to each

other, nor even then only in extreme cases where Justice cannot be otherwise obtained.

I am led to these reflections by a consideration of the circumstances attending a private concern between you and me: On my part I have never attempted fully to justify my own conduct in making use of the Money in question, tho' I have uniformly insisted, I conceive with Truth and propriety, that it was an inoffensive misfortune, and most certainly no Man could have more sincerely lamented it; nor is there an unprejudiced person on earth that can with the least colour of Truth ascribe it to any other source. If this be true, permit me to ask, why you persist in a resolution, the effect of which is nothing short of a legal prosecution, and from which in fact you can derive no benefit whatever; whereas, if you had listened to terms of accommodation, the consequences might have been ultimately happy to both you and myself? Does

such measure comport with the Maxim I have adverted to? Is there, Sir, an example of the kind to be met with through the whole of that sacred volume which You I trust daily consult, and profess to make the guide of your conduct? Had my intentions been as improper as has been wickedly suggested, I conceive it would hardly justify all the treatment I have experienced. Indeed, whoever will read with a spirit of candour the contents of my several Letters to You of May 28. 1793, 10th of March and 26th of April 1794, must I think be convinced that my intentions have been the very reverse of what Slander and malevolence would represent.

In a Christian country, in a liberal and enlightened age, one would suppose the Laws of Humanity and benevolence and the plain dictates of reason, would have their full effect, especially among those who openly profess those noble and manly virtues in an eminent degree! Misfortune is the common, the unavoidable

lot of humanity; since I first had the honour of acting in a public sphere, I have been a witness to many scenes that in the course of events have affected others; this, Sir, (tho' in several instances I have myself been greatly injured by interpositions in favour of others) has tended to afford me much information, and I own to you, that I derive a consolation from reflecting that I have ever had it in my power to alleviate them, and that I have done so with real satisfaction. This you will say, perhaps, is saying much in my own favour; it is, however, a Truth, and I ought not to conceal, though perhaps I ought to apologize for it. It is natural for Man to be, in a degree at least, partial to himself, your candour therefore will suggest every excuse that may be judged necessary upon the present occasion.

By this, and the communications I have already made to you, you are made acquainted with my sentiments and prospects; and, now repeat, that I am desirous (if you are not pleased to

judge for yourself) to submit the propriety of the proposals I have to offer, to any one or more disinterested Men, only let them be of that discription and I will chearfully submit the nomination to yourself; but if you shall still think proper to persist in a determination to pursue me to the grave, I beg you will at least so far indulge me, as to consent that a State of Facts may be made public, together with this and the Letter above refered to, that the World may judge, whether I do or do not merit the treatment I have met with for more than twelve months.

I am, Sir, your real Friend

Theo Clarke

P.S. If Deacon Sumner shall be of opinion, that the labour of a Man who has laboured under the painful malady of two ruptures for twenty nine years; whose constitution has been otherwise broken by the Heats and Colds, Storms and Tempests, Fatigues and anxiety by Night as well as by Day, he has experienced during twelve years he has devoted to the service of the community, will be of any utility to him, it is at his service when-

-ever he pleases to call for it. Or if he can conceive his Death alone ought to attone for a misfortune in which Deacon Sumner was most unfortunately involved, and he hesitates to become the immediate executioner, I can point him at once to a few calumniators, who, if they can dispatch me privately (for they have not manhood enough to meet me openly), neither my life or memory will any longer be in question; and by this the most ungrateful and malignant will at least get rid of one bold complainant, and be able to give full scope to those diabolical passions, which are so dishonorary to human nature, and repugnant to the sentiments and feelings of the Christian, the Friend and the Gentleman. But Heaven forbid I should ever believe, that Deacon Sumner, in the exercise of his own judgment and discretion, would ever participate in, or countenance such a Tragedy.

Roxbury 29 May 1794.

William Hunt Esqr

Sir, I wrote you on the 28th of November 1793, annexing your account, and stateing a small ballance due me of £2..9..11. Also on the 17th of January, and the 26 of March last upon the same subject: But whether all or either of those letters ever reached you I am at a loss to determine, as no reply has yet come to hand. The ballance referred to will be very acceptable to me for the reasons I have stated, and I am perswaded my friend Major Read will chearfully take charge of it, and convey it to me. I shall also be much obliged if you will be so good to inform me of the event of the Jewal small suit I requested you to commence in the County of Middlesex, particularly "Robbins vs Warland," and "Mann vs Mann" as I am called on for the money, if collected.

Permit me to offer you my congratulations on your obtaining a Seat in the Legislature the present year; this event must tend to convince the World, that notwithstanding your conduct as a Magistrate has undergone a severe investigation, in the course of a few Months past, your Constituents retain proper sentiments relative to your Integrity and Abilities; that both may be conspicuous through the Year, and tend to eradicate every vestage of unreasonable prejudice, is the wish of, Sir, Your Sincere Friend, and very Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 31 May 1794.

William Hunt Esqr

Sir, I have had the pleasure of receiving your favour of yesterdays date, in reply to the one I addressed to you of the day preceeding; I am sorry if there is an error in the account I sent you, and can only repeat what I said in my letter of November 28th last "Should you discover any errors, I will chearfully rectify them." When I consider that the account has been open ever since the 26 of July 1790, and the last Executions issued more than twelve months since, I confess I hoped you would not merely be "in forwardness to avail your self of the proceeds of those actions brought before me," but that you had long since received the Costs due upon them, and would have been ready to have discharged the small proportion coming to me; or at least, that my peculiar misfortunes, and consiquent embarrassments, would have prevailed to induce you to pay it, tho' the whole had not come to hand.

The Note against Warland not being negotiable it was necessary to sue it in Robbins's name; but it is the property of one Mary Doyle a poor Young woman belonging to this Town. I hope therefore Robbins has not availed himself of the Money as it would have been very wrong in him to have

taken it. In the business of Mann & Mann, I presume you have exercised your best discretion, and I am persuaded you will obtain the Money as soon as it may be any way convenient. I am Sir, very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 2 June 1794

Mr Benjamin Russell

Sir, I request you will be so good to insert the inclosed Advertisement in your next Centinel, and that you will please to continue it as long as you can afford to for the Money accompanying. Should there be any enquiries upon the subject of it, please to direct them to, Sir,

Your Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury near Boston 13 June 1794.

Monsieur D. Salimbeni

Sir As I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since your departure from hence, and of consiquence am ignorant what further directions you may think proper to give relative to the business you was pleased to confide to me, I embrace the opportunity which Monsr Dumaine's departure affords me, to address you, in the hope that this letter will meet you in Guadaloupe.

Soon after your departure from hence Monsr. Delestenier called on me, and acquainted me "he had a Demand against you which he expected you would have settled before your departure," and enquired, "if I had any property of your's in my possession?" I answered, "that you had left a few articles with me to be sold for the benefit of Madam Mayhew, who was to board in my family, your which I considered as my security for payment, and, that if it was in my power to help him, I would chearfully do it." Soon De St Yppolite, after this M. De la Jaunce sent a responsible an Officer to attach the Goods to him to that with directions, how ever to speak to give you this

with me upon the subject; to whom I also stated the case, and upon my assurance, "that I would do all in my power to do him Justice," he de=sisted. I waited on your Friend monsieur Dumaine, to whom I also stated the case, and requested his advice, who was of opinion it would be best to endeavour to effect a settlement; considering therefore, that Madam Muschee had determined to embark with M. Dumaine and family for Guadeloupe; that a Law suit would be not only unequal on account of your absence, but attended with an expence that might absorb the whole, I judged it best to promise M. Delasderniers pay=ment of his Demand out of your effects, of the reasonableness and propriety of which you will judge. Whatever remains in my hands beyond this will be subject to your order when You shall be pleased to draw upon me for it.

Mrs Clarke joins me in wishing that you will have a safe voyage, and on your arrival, an agreeable meeting with your Re=latives and Friends in Guadeloupe.

I shall hope to hear from you from thence by every safe occasion that offers, and shall be happy in any opportunity when it may be in my power to render you any acceptable service. I

I am Sir, with great respect, for yourself & Lady,
Your most obedient Servant
Tho Clarke

P.S. June 14. 1794

Monsr Delasderniers has this Day, pur=suant to what I suppose was his original ~~intention~~ determination, attached all Your Goods, except the Book Desk, which I will retain for you if possible.
T. C.

French direction

A Monsr D. Salimbeni Sur ses terres.
au petit bourg
A La Gouadeloupe

Roxbury near Boston 16 June 1794

Sir, Since writing my letter of the 13th & 14th instant I have obtained a sight of the Writ therein referred to, and find Mr Delasderniers's charge against you amounts to £5-16-0, or Nineteen Dollars and one third, exclusive of charges, which may perhaps amount to five or six Dollars more; included in this account is M. Delasderniers's charge for teaching Monsr Le Chev. De St Yppolite, for whom, he says, you became responsible and can adduce your letter to him to that effect. I thought it proper to give you this

information, because, as the Trial cannot be had
untill the 30th Day of September next, if you
think proper to dispute the Justice of the Demand,
there will be sufficient time to transmit any
directions you may judge expedient upon the
subject. I have delivered the Harp to Monsr
Dumaine, and hold the Chest, Bed & Base viol
ready to be shipped to your Friend Monsieur
Bernardi, at New York, if I shall receive your
directions for that purpose. Please to present
Mrs Clarke's and my respectful compliments
to Madam D. Salimberni, and believe me to be,
with sentiments of esteem, Sir, your most obt
and hble Servt,

Sho Clarke

June 17. 1794. Wrote The hon. John Read Esqr
in behalf of Luther Emes Esqr, relative
to drawing water by pipes from Jamai
-ca pond, &c a— and inclosed it in a
Letter to said Emes.

Roxbury 17th June 1794.

Honble Ebenezr Thayer Esqr.

Dear Sir,

In addressing you on this occasion,
I should experience a singular Satisfaction,
if it was in my power to congratulate you on
your advancement to some eminent station
on the Theatre of Political life; because, I am
perswaded, the independence of your circumstan
-ces, your abilities, and inclination, are much
better adapted to such employment than the
invidious Office you have but lately relin
-quished. I say invidious, not because I ever
felt the least reluctance at observing the
Laws of Society carried into effect with
promptitude, but because, to a mind of Sen
sibility, as I know yours to be, there are many
things which duty requires a man to do,
which are truely painful and affecting.
And, however hard, and, in some instances,
ungrateful, the treatment I have experi
-enced from a few individuals, to whose
benefit I have, with alacrity, sacrificed as
much Time and Property as any man liv
-ing, I enjoy a great pleasure in observing

the advancement of those with whom I have had the honour of being associated, and for whose uniform principles and conduct I entertain the highest veneration. In a Republican government, perhaps, disappointments are generally more frequent than in any other, the road to preferment being in most respects more popular, and sometimes occasioned by mere dint of assertion, or the spur of the moment. But so long as the community are well served, the Laws predicated upon reasonable and just principles, and all the powers of Government kept in lively exercise, we have no reason to complain. For, my Friend, what is the fate of individuals when compared to the great body of the community? less, in my estimation, than the drop of the bucket to the ocean! My fate has indeed been peculiarly hard: no less than twelve years of the very prime of my life have been devoted to the service of this Town in particular, and the community in general; and, tho' I cannot boast of having discharged the duties devolved on me with ability, and of appearing with eclat upon the political stage, I may

venture modestly to assert, that I have uniformly endeavoured to make up what was wanting in the requisite qualifications, by zeal and application in every pursuit. And, although my Property has been absorbed by bad Debts, by the rapid depreciation of the Orders of Government, by having injudiciously become responsible for others, and by too great a neglect of my own private affairs; tho' I am left with a most amiable wife, and eight innocent children wholly unprovided for; and tho' I have, for more than fifteen months, experienced a scene of unkindness unparalleled in a Christian Country, and a liberal and enlightened age, when Humanity, Benevolence, and a universal Philanthropy to the whole human race are professed to be the leading traits in the political and moral character of the great body of the People; yet I derive a singular pleasure from reflecting on those scenes through which I have passed; and, that division, animosity, jealousy, insurrection, and open Rebellion, have terminated in the permanent establishment of one of the wisest, freest,

and safest constitutions of civil government that, perhaps, has been formed since the ancient Republicks of Sparta and Greece exhibited in full splendor those exalted virtues on which they were originally founded. And I also derive a great and heartfelt satisfaction from consi-dering, that several of my most valued Friends are provided for under that government with Offices congenial to their circumstances and feelings, in the discharge of which they appear with peculiar lustre. Thus, my Dear Sir, you observe that I experience consolations amid a Scene of trouble and anxiety; that, tho' I lament my own misfortunes, and the unhappy lot of an inocent and virtuous fa-mily; that, tho' I have experienced a load of calumny, obloquy, and illiberality with-out example, I can, and do most sincerely rejoice at the prosperity of my country, and the welfare of my Friends, among whom, the agreeable connection that has subsisted between you and me, for a series of years, give you a distinguished place in my affections. May you, Sir, enjoy an uninterrupted course of Health, Peace, and every earthly Felicity, and

finally meet that reward which never fails to result from a consciousness of doing good.

I am, with lively sentiments of esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 18th June 1794

Doctor Lewis Lepriere

Sir, I request you will be so obliging to inform me, whether you have seen the Gentlemen who applied to you for board, since you mentioned them to me; and, if so, whether they are accommo-dated agreeable to their wishes. Should this be the case, and you should know of three or four Ladies or Gentlemen who desire accommoda-tions, I will thank you to direct them to me.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your Obt Servt

Tho Clarke

June 19th 1794

Joseph Ruggles Esqr

Dear Sir, Since the unfortunate day, when, borne down by oppression, I was compelled to relinquish all the property I possessed, and with it my whole dependence for the support of my family, there is no one thing that has given me more serious concern, than the treatment I have met from, and the insinuations of some of your particular friends. It was a sense of this that dictated my letter to You of the 21st of August last; and it is this which has been a principal obstacle to my reserming business to the present day. Why I have been thus singled out, and why I have been thus treated, are to me totally inexplicable; perhaps a conversation, on the fair and generous principles suggested in that letter, may tend to set this matter in a proper light; on my part, I shall have no objection that either Your Brother Smith, or Doctor Williams, shall be present, tho' I have no person equally near to me, and

interested in my welfare to bring with me. Sure I am, You cannot entertain a wish to extirpate me at this period, especially if You reflect a moment on the intercourse that has subsisted between us, and the chearfulness and alacrity with which I complied with Your commands on all occasions. I beg leave therefore to renew that request. I am, Sir,

Your sincere Friend, and Obedt Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 20th June 1794.

Mr. D. Salimberi
at Mr Bernardi's, Dock Street, New York.

Dear Sir, Your letter from New Haven of the 14th instant came to hand this Day. The disposal of most of your effects, agreeable to your direction when you departed from hence, is for the present superseded by an unluckey incident. Immediately after your departure Mr Delasdernier acquainted me "he had a Demand against you to a considerable amount, which you promised him to set the before your departure;" & enquired

relative to your property left with me, to whom I stated," that I had a few articles which were to be sold for the benefit of Madam Mussher, and that I did not consider them as yours &c.," but notwithstanding this, when it was known that Madam Mussher had determined to em=bark with Monsr Dumaine for Guadaloupe, M. Delesdernier got an Officer, and attached the greater part, except the Harp, Base viol, Bed, Chest, Lamp, and Book case, which I found means to preserve.

I offered to settle with him out of the proceed of the Sales, but it was ineffectual, and the Goods were removed. I have an Inventory of the Goods with the Officers receipt for them, pro=mising to account to me for the overplus, should any remain after paying the debt and costs. Since this affair took place I find the Demand is made for £5.. 16.. 0- equal to nineteen Dollars and one third, a part of which is for teaching Monsr Le Chr De St Yppolite the english Language, for which, he says, you become responsible, and the charges may be four or six Dollars more: I have experienced a degree of chagren in this business, but I could by no means avoid it. as the trial cannot be had untill the 30

of September next, if you are disposed to dispute the Demand, there will be sufficient time to transmit such directions as you may judge proper; or if you shall think it best to endea=vour a settlement with Mr Delesdernier, I will chearfully undertake it, if I receive your commands to this effect; you will, therefore, conduct as you shall think best under all circumstances. As it was uncertain whether I should have an opportunity of communicating with you while you tarried on the Continent, I wrote you two letters by our Friend Monsr Dumaine, which I hope will meet you in Guadaloupe; And I also hope my conduct in this business will meet your approbation. I conceived it proper to give you this in forma=tion without waiting for the shipment of the articles you direct to New York. A vessell will sail from hence the begining of the next week, on board of which I propose to shipp them. Mrs Clarke desires to be remembered affectionately to your self, Madam D. Sabin beni & little Harry; and you will please to accept my most fervent

wishes for You and their Health and prosperity,
that You may have an agreeable voyage, and
an happy meeting with your Friends and
connections in Guadaloupe. God grant! that
Peace may soon be restored to the contending
Nations of Europe, and that the horrors of
War may never more be experienced in any
part of the World.

I shall hope to hear from you before
your final departure, and by the earliest
occasion after your arrival in the West Indias;
I shall be happy at all times to receive your
commands, and to render you any accept
-able service. Your Flag was delivered to
Monsr. Dumarina. I am, Sir, with sentiments
of respect, your most Obt. Servant.

Tho Clarke

Roxbury near Boston 23 June 1794

Monsieur D. Salimbeni

Dear Sir, Agreeable to what I suggested in
my letter of the 20th instant, I have shipped on
board the Sloop Anson, Isaac Bennett, master,
Your Chest, Bedsted & Bed, & Base viol, Bill
of Lading of which you will please to receive
inclosed.

I have reflected with much satisfaction,
on the agreeable intercourse that subsisted
between us, during the eight months in which
you resided in my House; tho' I was impelled
to submit to it, by hard necessity, occasioned by
a train of misfortunes. In fact Sir, tho' I was
born and educated in a Christian Land;
tho' I have devoted the very prime of my
days to the service of my Country, for twelve
years successively, in which I have served in
every Office in the immediate gift of the People,
and have been repeatedly honoured with the
highest marks of approbation; yet I have
recently met a treatment, dictated by a
Spirit of malice and Ingratitude. In fact,
my Friend, I have often had occasion
seriously to enquire, "Who is my neighbour?"
For I own to You with pleasure, that I

I have experienced more kindness from a French Restorat, than from several to whose benefit I have devoted my Time my property, and my influence, for years together. You will think this a melancholy picture among a people famed for their having imbibed a universal Spirit of Philanthrophy; but I am constrained to say, it is not, as it applies to me, in the least degree exagerated. Under these circumstances, You will judge, Sir that every little business that comes to hand, is a source of consolation to me and my family. I beg leave therefore to tender you my best services, in case you should have any business to be transacted here after your arrival at Guadaloupe. Be pleased to accept my respects, and believe me to be, with lively sentiments of esteem,

Dear Sir, Your Obt Servant

Thos Clarke

P.S. Your Lamp was packed in a Box ready for M. Dumaine to take with him to Guadaloupe, but whether it slipped his mind, or it was inconvenient to him to take it, I know not, it was omitted.

I shall carefully reserve it subject to your order. Should the fortune of War ever impell you to come to America, You may always depend on a safe asylem with your Sincere Friend.

T. C.

Roxbury 24 June 1794

Honble John Read Esqr.

Respected Sir,

I beg you to accept my sincere congratulations, on your advancement to a Seat at the Board of the Supreme Executive of the Commonwealth; a Station Sir, which the Independence of your mind, and your ample fortune, will enable you to fill with true Dignity, and an upright Republican Spirit, abstracted from the influence of party, and the mean contrivance of prejudice. While I experience a measure of persecution dictated by both, it affords me unspeakable pleasure to observe any of my Friends, and you in particular, growing in the esteem of their fellow Citizens, and exalted to eminent places of Power and

Truft. — That you may long continue an ornament to your Country, and a uſeful member of ſociety, is my ardent wiſh.

Since I have been capable of acting upon the Theatre of Public life, You are ſenſible Sir, that I never have been conſidered an Office ſeeker; but being deprived of that buſineſs on which I depended for ſup-port, by a train of misfortunes; and feeling as I do, from duty and affection, the moſt tender concern for an amiable Wife, and eight innocent Children; and being totally unable to perform any manual labour, by a debility which I have experienced the painful effects of, for near twenty Nine Years; I am impelled to ſolicit an employment in which I can be uſeful to the Community, and myſelf.

By the favour of my Country, I have ſuſtained an Office ſeven Years; and I venture modeſtly to ſay, that, even my enemies, are not able to charge me with a ſingle act of oppreſſion, and much leſs with meanly deſcending to the hearing every little malicious ſuggeſtion brought

to me; but on the contrary, that I uniformly endeavoured the Peace and happineſs of ſo-ciety, in preference to my own private emolument; for the Truth of theſe aſſertions I can with confidence appeal to yourſelf, and every Gentleman who has had an opportunity of obſerving my principles and conduct for many Years paſt. This Office Sir, with the drawing of Inſtrument, would I conceive afford a mere decent ſupport untill I can avail myſelf of ſomething more profitable. Permit me therefore to hope, that you will have the goodneſs to lay my caſe before the Supreme Executive, and ſubmit to them, in ſuch manner as your prudence ſhall dictate, the reaſonableneſs and propriety of this requeſt: It will be a relief truly ſalutary to a depreſſed, per-ſecuted, Friend, and it will, if poſſible, be infinitely more ſo to a virtuous and innocent family, reduced to ſtraits, by the various parts I have acted, during the way part of my life, and uſefulneſs. I am Sir, with pro-found reſpect, Your obt Servt.

Jno. Clarke

Roxbury 25 June 1794.

His Excellency Samuel Adams Esqr.

Sir, Permit me to address you on a subject interesting to me, and to solicit your patronage so far as you shall judge me worthy of it. more than Thirteen Years since, I was, by the free and voluntary suffrages of my fellow citizens of this Town, introduced into public life, during which period, I served, twelve Years as an Overseer of the poor; one year as a Collector of public Taxes, by which I unavoidably lost my all; ten years as a Selectman and Assessor; seven years as Town Clerk, and seven Years as a Representative in the General Court; beside several other Offices of less importance; and, tho' I can not say that I ever appeared with any considerable degree of eclat, yet I may assert, that I discharged myself with faithfulness and Integrity; and enjoyed as large a share of the confidence & esteem of my fellow Citizens as perhaps ever fell to the lott of any one individual; as a proof of this, and for your Excellency's Satisfaction, I inclose an attested copy of the Scene which took place on the 4th Day of March 1793.

I have also served the Community seven Years as a Civil Magistrate, in which Office very few, perhaps, have more general

Satisfaction: For I can truly assert, that instead of attending to little litigious animosities and contentions, I uniformly endeavoured to promote the Peace and happiness of Society, by discountenancing all that could tend to foment them. For the truth of this, I can with confidence appeal to my Honorable friend Major Read, and every Gentleman who has had an opportunity of being acquainted with my principles and conduct while in Office.

But while I have been attending to the concerns of the Community, my private affairs have suffered extremely; in consequence, I have been compelled to give up all my property by for the benefit of my honest Creditors, except what had been extorted from me, by the cruell and relentless grasp of avarice & oppression; and am left with a most amiable wife, and eight innocent children, endeared to me by the most tender and affectionate ties, to deplore my unfortunate situation; and this at a period of life, and with the painful debility of two ruptures, which I have experienced almost twenty nine years, that render me wholly unable to pursue my business, or perform any kind of manual labour,

under

under these circumstances it would be agree able to me to resume the duties of a civil Magistrate, which, with the business I may otherwise acquire, I conceive will afford me a mere decent support. Your Excellency knows to what disadvantages the unfortunate are too generally subjected; of this I have had a painful experience. But I hope by the favour of your Excellency, and the Supreme Executive, honorably to surmount them.

I may be of public utility: it will be salutary to an unfortunate friend, and it will if possible, be infinitely more so to a family truly virtuous and inoffensive. At all event, I cheerfully submit myself to the strictest scrutiny your Excellency may think proper to make. I have the honour to be with perfect respect, your Excellency's most Obt & Hble Servt

Tho Clarke

Roxbury 26 June 1794.

Honorable William Heath Esqr.

Respected Sir,

The marks of Friendship with which you have been pleased to honour me for a number of Years; your experience and observation relative to Men and measures: and above all, your well known candour and impartiality, induce me to submit the incorrect sheets which accompany this address to your perusal. They have been hastily thrown together, and appear before you totally unpolished. They are however the language of Truth, and of the Heart, and as such will, I am persuaded meet that attention they may appear to merit. I beg you Sir, to give them a reading, and, if you please, favour me with your opinion, in confidence, of the design I have in view, and the most probable method of carrying it into effect.

I am with lively sentiments of esteem,

Respected Sir,

Your Obt, & humble servant

Tho. Clarke

Roxbury near Boston 6 July 1794

Monsr D. Sabinieni

Dear Sir, Your letter of the 30 ultimo came to hand this Day. It would afford me much satisfaction if it should be in my power to defeat the designs of M. Delesdernier, so far as they are dishonourable or unjust. He has insinuated to me, as near as I can remember, "that he possesses Your letters to him, wherein you request his Services, and not only pledge yourself for M. St Hypolite but other French Gentlemen, Your Friends & associates here." If this be true, (and it is impossible for me to contradict him,) you will judge what chance there is to combat his Demand in a Court of Law. But if this is not the fact, and You have any papers in Your possession to prove the contrary, I request You to forward them to me; I will make the best use of them in my power, at all events Your prudence will dictate much better than I am able to, the best measures it may be best to adopt under all circumstances. On my part, I will endeavour to carry your ideas into effect, and will do it with alacrity.

Mrs Clarke & mine, and I may add, all my family, experience great disquietude

on account of the departure of Madam D. Sabinieni for Guadaloupe. If the information recently received from that quarter may be relied on (and I conceive it at least probable) her delicate situation renders her unable to encounter the difficulties she may be subjected to. May Heaven protect her from every injury!

This Day there are various reports relative to Europe and the West Indias. As to the latter it is said "that Guadaloupe is retaken by the French, and that Admiral Jarvis has blocked up the French in Port Petre Pea. As to Europe, it is reported that a ship has arrived this Day from England; that when she sailed, Great Britain was in great consternation, occasioned by the uneasiness of the People, and that at least 20,000, had risen in support of their Rights. How far all this may be true Time alone can develope. God grant that you may be protected amid the various Scenes exhibited at the present Day, a Day big with events which may, perhaps, determine the fate of the World. Be pleased, My Dear Sir, to accept my most affectionate wishes for your Health and Prosperity, and

that you may soon have an agreeable meeting with Your Lady and Family.

I am very respectfully, Dear Sir,
Your Obt & Humble Servt
Tho Clarke

Roxbury 9 July 1794.

Mr Nathaniel Hancock,

Sir, The disorder with which your little daughter Caroline is visited, appear to me to be very alarming: From the observations I have made, I find She is constantly attended with a fever, which, however, is much higher in some parts of the Day than others. I do not mention this because I apprehend She has altered for the worse; on the contrary, I would hope She has ea-ther mended for the better: But still I conceive it would be advisable, if possible, to endeavour to apply a radical cure; not indeed by a course of medecine, for this I think would be ineffectual, but by some stimulous that may tend to streng-then her at the same time that it removes the disorder; perhaps good wine whey may be a proper one. This, by the advice of my Friend Doctor Williams, has been used with great effect, on several occasions, in my family; and as I have had great experience of his skill in similar cases, I would beg leave to

submit to you the propriety of your desiring his attendance on Your Child. I would be far from pretending to dictate in so delicate a case; but as I know the life and Health of this little daughter is dear to you in par-ticular, and her relatives in general, I felt it my duty to suggest these idea's for your consideration, and shall be truely happy if they may prove of any utility.

I am, Sir, your Friend & Servant
Tho Clarke

Roxbury 10 July 1794

Mr David West,

Dear Sir, Inclosed I forward you a set of Indentures for binding my son Thomas; to which I have annexed a proposition, on a sepa:rate paper, for compleating the vacant blank; You, my Friend, will consider of the reason:ableness and propriety of this request, under all circumstances; it may, perhaps, in your opinion, militate with modern precedents; but admiting this to be the case, too great steps ought not to be laid upon them; indeed, there are cases, that, in my opinion, will warrant a deviation from general rules. A Boy that possesses a good mind, and is ambitious of performing his duty with Integrity and fidelity; that has ac:quired a decent Education, and in conse:quence, is capable of transacting business with a degree of knowledge and ability, suitable to his years; and, that is decently clothed at first setting out; and in additi:on to these, is very young, must I think be more valuable to a Master than one of a contrary disposition; of small qualifications; and with al more advanced in

ri years. I am sensible that all these requisites seldom centre in one person; it would therefore, be presuming, and arrogant in me, to suppose my son possessed them; You have, however, had an opportunity of observing him for 10 weeks past, and I most chearfully submit him to your Judgment, which, I am perswaded, must be less partial than that of a fond Parent.

It would afford Mrs Clarke & me much pleasure to wait on you at Roxbury, when convenient; but if your business (for I am assured a disposition is not wanting) should prevent our enjoying a pleasure we have for some time anti:cipated, I purpose to wait on you for the purpose of completeing the business which is the subject of this letter.

I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Respect,
Your obedient Servant
Jno. Clarke

information, because, as the Treal cannot be had
untill the 30th Day of September next, if you think
proper to dispute the Justice of the Demand there
will be Sufficient time to transmit any directe
:ons you may judge expedient upon the

N. 332 + 347 PS. 336

N 331

02. 6. 8½
29. 11. 4½
11. 1. 15. 1
52. 1. 15. 4
£69. 2. 9