To the editor of the Mercantile Advertiser.

SIR,

Pleafe to infert the following ftatement of fome tranfactions which lately took place at Tobago.

Annexed is an attorney's bill, an exact copy from the original, which for its formal, tedious, and ridiculous minutenefs, may be confidered as a profeffional curiofity, and for the exorbitance of the charges, may ferve as a fmall fpecimen of the vile fyftem of extortion practifed upon Americans in the Weft-Indies.

The injuftice and cruelty of the treatment experieeced by capt. Williams, are fo palpable that they preclude the neceffity of a comment. A. B.

Captain Abraham Williams, of Gloucefter, (Cape Ann) in December laft being about to fail for America from the ifland of Tobago, received an intimation, while on fhore at a friend's, that it was fufpected that a flave, belonging to Meffrs. Strickland and Clark of that place, had fecreted himfelf on board his veffel. Capt. W. having, as is required in fome iflands, given bonds at the cuftom-houfe, not to carry away without permiffion, either any perfon in debt or *a slave*, fent word to his mate to fearch the fchooner thoroughly, and find him if he was there.

Accordingly, ftrict fearch was made, and no difcovery. The mate reported the refult to capt. Williams, who told him the heavy penalties of carrying away a flave; and afked him particularly if he had fearched throughout?—The mate, an active, truftworthy man, protefted that he had. However, by earneft defire of the captain, diligent fearch was again made: but all to no effect. Shortly after, fome perfons in the employ of Meffrs Strickland and Clark came on board, and faid they believed the fellow was ftill there. Immediately, the captain ordered a light, and proceeded to examine every part of the veffel. After a long time fpent in fruitlefs examination, juft as they were about quitting the hold, by fome accident the fellow was difcovered, hid under the fecond tier of hogfheads next the keelfon. Capt. W. expreffed his furprife that the fellow could have fecreted himfelf, without the knowledge of the crew; and warmly declared his fatisfaction that he was caught. Immediately, the perfons who had come on board to fearch began to throw out infinuations highly injurious to the honour of capt. W. who inftantly ordered his men to let go the anchor, determining to ftay and vindicate his character from fuch unjuft afperfions. This circumftance alone fufficiently evinces his innocence; for no one can fuppofe that if he were guilty, he would have thus voluntarily fubjected himfelf to detection. Accordingly, he went on fhore; where, notwithftanding his honorable, gentlemanlike conduct in this bufinefs, Meffrs. Strickland and Clark had the inhumanity to arreft him and throw him in gaol.

In this predicament, he made application to an attorney for advice, who rendered him fome trivial fervices, for which he had the confcience to charge the unconfcionable fum of one hundred and feventy eight pounds, Tobago currency—equal to fifty four Joes.

It is well that Americans who are in habits of commercial intercourfe with other countries, fhould learn to diftinguifh their enemies from their friends; and that thofe enemies, fhould be marked out, that all communication with them may be carefully avoided.

Bill rendered by Thomas T. Wife, Efq. to Capt. Williams.

Captain Abraham Williams,
To Thomas T. Wise, Dr.

1800.	L.	S.	D.
Nov. 25.—To a retaining fee which a gentleman of the bar always charges in this ifland upon being confulted in any critical bufinefs, and engaging to undertake the conduct of it—to prevent his receiving a retainer on the oppofite fide—nothing being more common in all the colonies than to join another counfel with the law-officer of the crown, even in profecutions on behalf of the crown, whether it be in fupport or defence of a fuit or profecution.	16	10	0
To attending Mr. Smith to the Deputy-Provoft Marfhal's, at his villa near town, for the purpofe of reading the mitimus, by virtue of which the Marfhal took you into cuftody, and befpeaking a copy thereof,	2	6	0
To confidering the nature and validity of that mitimus—which made it neceffary for me to look over my books, and exercife a great deal of thought on the occafion,	6	12	0
To drawing, engroffing, figning, and forwarding a very long and fpecial petition to his Hon. Jofeph Robley, Efq. Prefident of his Majefty's council, immediately after I was informed he had been fworn into office as commander in chief—in which petition were very fully ftated, the peculiar hardfhips of your cafe; and were alfo ftated the doubts which his hon. Juftice Patterfon, then fole juftice of his Majefty's court of common pleas, entertained whether he could alone, as there was no other juftice of the court, award a writ of Habeas Corpus, though in our colonial vocation, to bring you before him for the purpofe of having the legality of your imprifonment confidered,	16	10	0
To reading and confidering the claufe of the Tobago Court act, which his hon. Mr. Juftice Patterfon feemed to think it neceffary that there fhould be two judges to award a writ of Habeas corpus.	6	12	0
To drawing, engroffing, figning and forwarding, (after reading and confidering the claufe which occafioned Mr. Juftice Patterfon's doubts) a very long fpecial petition to his Honor, wherein the fubject matter of thofe doubts was argumentatively ftated and confidered,	16	10	0
To drawing, engroffing, figning and forwarding a very fpecial petition to his Hon. Jofeph Robley, Efq. as Commander in Chief, ftating the peculiar hardfhip of your cafe, and praying that his Honor would iffue a commiffion for a fpecial Court of Oyer and Terminer to have you tried as fpedily as poffible.	16	10	0
To going out to Golden Grove, his Honour's country feat, with the petition when I had other bufinefs of importance on hand; and remaining till evening for the obtainment of an audience on the ferious fubject matter of the petition—his Honour the Prefident being ill when I got into Golden Grove, fo as not to be able to give me an audience till afternoon.	9	13	8
To attending in my chamber the mate and all your failors when they called upon me for the purpofe of giving an account of what they individually knew concerning the charge brought againft you of harbouring, concealing, and attempting to carry away a negro flave belonging to Mefsrs. Strickland and Clark—and taking notes in order to draw two affidavits on the occafion, one of the mate and the other for the crew to make,	6	12	0
To drawing, engrofsing, and filing, after they were fworn to, thofe two affidavits,	13	4	0
To drawing, engroffing, figning, and filing, after it was fworn to in the court, an affidavit for John Smith, and Jafper Wheeler, two merchants of the town of Scarborough to make,	6	12	0
To drawing, engroffing, figning and forwarding to Mr. Juftice Patterfon and Mr. Juftice Wightman a very fpecial petition for a writ of Habeas corpus, returnable immediately, in order that you might be brought up before them to have the legality of your imprifonment thoroughly confidered;—and either to obtain an abfolute, unqualified, unconditional difcharge, or be liberated on bail,	15	10	0
To drawing, engroffing, and forwarding to Mr. Juftice Patterfon, a writ of Habeas Corpus, returnable immediately,	9	18	0
To reviewing, moft attentively confidering, and preparing myfelf to argue the whole cafe, and attending the court, which was holden for that purpofe, when I was much indifpofed, to difcufs the queftion of the legality of your imprifonment; which took me up full two hours	83	0	0
Amount (Fifty four Joes, or) £.	178	4	0

Pennfylvania Legiflature.

JANUARY 6.

The bill entitled "an act to repeal fo "much of an act entitled "an act to en"able the Governor of the commonwealth "to appoint commiffioners, to afcertain "the beft route for, and mode of effect"ing a communication between the wa"ters of the Delaware and Chefapeak bays, "and appropriating a fum of money for "opening the river Sufquehanna down to "the Maryland line, as prevents any in"dividual or company removing the ob"ftructions in the river Sufquehannah" "was read the third time.

Whereupon,

Refolved, that the faid bill pafs, and that it be tranfmitted to the fenate for concurrence.

The bill entitled "an act eftablifhing fchools throughout this commonwealth, in fuch manner that the poor may be taught gratis "was read as reported by the committee of the whole.

The firft fection thereof being under confideration.

On the queftion, "Will the Houfe agree to the fame?"

The yeas and nays were called for by Mr. Prefton and Mr. Penrofe, and were Yeas 29, Nays 37.

Decifion between Pennfylvania and Connecticut, by the Federal court at Trenton, extracted from old Journals of Congrefs; and declared by the Federal Legiflature, in 1800, to be final and conclufive, as to Soil and Jurifdiction.

Monday, 30th December, 1782.

The Court met. Prefent as before.

The Agents attending,

The court pronounced the following fentence or judgment;

This caufe has been well argued by the learned *Council* on both fides. The court are now to pronounce their fentence or judgment.

We are UNANIMOUSLY of opinion, that the ftate of Connecticut has no right to the lands in controverfy.

We are alfo UNANIMOUSLY of opinion, that the jurifdiction and pre-emption of all the territory lying within the charter-boundary of Pennfylvania, and now claimed by the ftate of Connecticut, do, of right, belong to the ftate of Pennfylvania.

William Whipple, Welcome Arnold,
Wm. C. Houfton, Cyrus Griffin,
David Brerely.

WIL. WHIPPLE, *President.*

Trenton, December 20, 1782.

The court adjourned without day.

ATTEST.

JOHN NEILSON, Clerk.

The court fat 48 days, Sundays included; that is to fay, from Nov. 12, to Dec. 30, 1782. The Sufquehanna Company had able council and agents attending, although they could not be formally confidered as the parties in the caufe.

The following is a defcription of the new banking room of the bank of Pennfylvania, of which Mr. Latrobe was the architect, extracted from a Philadelphia paper.

It is a circular room, forty-five feet in diameter.—Two principal doors, eleven feet, three inches high, and four or five feet wide, placed in deep receffes, give accefs to it from the Eaft and Weft. At the north and fouth points are large windows, equal in fize to the receffes, in which they are fituated. Between the doors and windows are four nitches, from which fmaller doors lead to different apartments. The nitches and receffes are nine feet wide, and between 17 and 18 feet to the top of the Arch. A range of 16 pannels furrounds the hall above the nitches. At the height of 33 or 34 feet, is the cornice and the fpringing court of the dome. The latter is of blue marble. The dome rifes twelve and half feet, being fingular for its flatnefs. It is decorated by three rows of pannels. The rim is of blue marble furrounding an opening of 13 feet. Over this is a Cupola of eight windows, the ceiling of which is fimply but elegantly ornamented. The extreme height of the room is fixty feet, fome inches.

In the centre is an ornamental altar, caft in iron, at the works of Mr. Godfey in New-Jerfey. It ferves the purpofes of a ftove, and warms the whole hall. The fire is made in the cellar, paffes through the ftove by means of flues and defcending again into the cellar is carried into one of the chimnies.

The dome is built in folid brick work, and the roof of the hall is of marble. All the blocks are of large dimenfions. We underftand there are four of them which weigh from four, fix to feven and an half ton.

JOHN BARNES,

FROM PHILADELPHIA,

Has juft opened for fale the following articles at his ftore oppofite Mr Semmes's tavern, in Georgetown, a general affortment of

Fresh Teas of the first quality, viz.

Imperial, Large Hyfon,
Young Hyfon, Hyfon fkin,
Souchong and Bohea.

SPICES.

Nutmegs, Mace,
Cinnamon, Cloves,
Four bags frefh Almonds.

LIQUORS.

Madeira, fix years old, Dry Sherry & Port, Brandy, 4th proof Jamaica Spirits, and Holland Gin.

COFFEE,

Pennington's beft refined fugars.

With a handfome affortment of gentlemen's fafhionable London HATS and trimmings.

He has likewife for fale, ten cafes well afforted STATIONARY, confifting of writing paper of different qualities, Quills, Wafers, and Ink powder, in packages from 80 to 180 dollars on the moft reafonable terms for cafh or approved notes.

Englifh and American playing cards,
Pafteboard per groce,
Wrapping paper per ream,
A cafe of 7-8 and yard wide Irifh Linen per piece.

Nov. [illegible] 1800.

CHEAP LUMBER

FOR SALE,

By the Subfcriber, on reafonable terms, either by large or fmall quantities, at his Lumber Yards, the north end of Lamberton, and at the old Sturgeon Pond, above Richards's wharf,

A QUANTITY OF

ASSORTED LUMBER, *viz.*

One and 1-4 inch, 1 1-8, and 1 do. Yellow pine heart boards—1 inch pannel, 1 1-4 do. for floors, 1 do. common, white pine do—2 do. 7 1-4 and 2 1-2 do planks, 1 do. 1-8, and 2-8 do. boards, black walnut—2 do. plank, 3 do. 1 2 do. pannel boards, bedftead fetts, poplar the whole of the above are well feafoned and fit for ufe]—lean heart pine, and fap pine white oak, and bilftead, hemlock and white pine fcantling, afforted—beft kind three feet cedar fhingles, dreffed and undreffed, do two feet white pine do. do. 18 inch cyprefs do—cedar rails—Alfo, white pine fawed rails—fhingling and plaftering laths, beft kind; white oak waggon timber—fap pine planks fap pine one inch boards, 3-4 cedar, beft kind 3-4 white pine, 3-4 fap pine, feafoned weather boards—A quantity of handfome chefnut pailings, fawed 1 by 3 inches and from 4 to 16 feet long, for garden fence, &c. A quantity of chefnut oak pofts, dreffed and undreffed; a quantity of cherry boards, a quantity of large white oak joice, a quantity of chefnut pofts—5000 feet of neat beach fcantling for tool ftocks—5000 feet of fickamore fcantling for bedfteads; 2 inch white oak plank; 1 inch white oak boards, 3-4 do. do. do.—25,000 feet fuperior cherry boards and plank, 3,000 do. very clear 2 inch white pine plank, 3,000 do. handfome heaton wood bedftead fetts feafoned, 100,000 prime North Carolina fhingles, a quantity of afh plank, 150 tons plaifter Paris, warranted, 3,000 bufhels beft Virginia pit coal, 200 bufhel clean houfe fand.

The fubfcriber intends, eftablifhing a Lumber Yard at the Federal City of Wafhington, which he will keep regularly fupplied as above—Any quantities may be agreed for by contract, deliverable, as the purchafer may wifh, provided that the place of delivery may be comeatable by water with a navigable veffel—Any quantity that may be ordered for fhipping abroad, fhall be fupplied with punctuality and difpatch, agreeable to order.

Gentlemen who are or may be building—as well as carpenters who may be under or may enter into contracts to build and furnifh the materials, will find it well worth their attention to apply as above—Applications may be made by letter (poft paid) or otherwife, to the fubfcriber, or left with Wm. and Anthony M. Buckley, or Benj. W Morris and Co. merchants, Philadelphia.

Also for Sale or to Let,

A large commodious Dwelling Houfe, with out buildings complete, and from three to feven acres of land—Two fmall do. with lots thereto. Alfo, a fmall Store near the river—All laying in the village of Lamberton.

NATHAN COMBS.

N. B. A Screw Jack to let, that raifes from 10 to 40 tons by hand—a conftant fupply of plaifter and Smith's Virginia coal.

Lamberton, New Jerfey, (on Del.)

January 13, 1801. w

John Minchen.

BOOT MAKER

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

RESPECTFULLY acquaints his FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS, and the PUBLIC, that he has removed his BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTORY from near the Eaftern Branch, to New Jerfey Avenue, on the hill near the Capitol, where he makes Gentlemen's Boots, Bootees, drefs and undrefs Shoes on the fhorteft notice, in the neateft manner, and of the beft materials.

December 3d. 3tw.

TO JOURNEYMEN SHOEMAKERS.

WANTED, a number of Journeymen Shoemakers, to whom conftant employment and good wages will be given.

Nail Manufactory,

ALL kinds of Cut Nails for Sale by Wholefale and Retail at the Factory on F Street, and at the Hardware Store of the Subfcriber, where perfons building and all others wifhing to purchafe may be fupplied with any quantity at the moft reafonable rates.

JOHN JA[illegible] tf

Wafhington Feb 4, 180[illegible]