

F R I D A Y, MAY 7, 1779.

such time as may be agreed upon; and may take in subscriptions from all persons willing to contribute towards the support of a printer, author or reader, and also for the support of a minister to such minister, and giving a salary not exceeding thirty pounds to the regular of such rectories.

And be it enacted, That the possession and free use of all glebe-land shall belong to the minister of each parish, from the time of his having agreed with the select vestry as aforesaid, for and during the time he shall continue to officiate therein as minister of the parish; and he shall be entitled to all the profits thereof during the time aforesaid, any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

CHARLESTOWN, *South-Carolina*, March 17.

ON Thursday last, at a court of special sessions, held for that purpose, came on the trials of William Tweed, Andrew Groundwater, and John Duer, taken on the first instant, attempting to join the inveterate enemies of the United States of America at Savannah in Georgia. These being, from the lenity of this government, the first trials of the kind had in Charleston, the court was remarkably crowded, and the criminals had every indulgence that could be granted; but it appeared so clearly, that Tweed was charged with a letter to col. Innes and col. Campbell, from a British officer. (a prisoner of war here) of the most malignant tendency; and that Groundwater's purpose was to take the benefit of the proclamation, which conditions pardon on taking up arms; the jury at eight o'clock at night, after having been a short time out, found them both guilty; but Duer was acquitted, it appearing that he had been ordered to depart the state, and thereby was induced to accept Tweed's offer to carry him to Georgia. On Monday the unhappy convicts received sentence of death, and this day they were executed pursuant to that sentence; Groundwater declaring, to his last hour, that his sentence was just, but he owed his untimely end to his companion.

March 23. It is remarkable, that in the account published in Georgia, by authority, of the taking of Savannah, after the number of prisoners is particularly mentioned, it is added, that "eighty-three rebels were found dead upon the common!"—not a syllable of any wounded! A gentleman, lately escaped from Georgia, gives as the reason, that Sir James Baird's light infantry, in tenderness to the wounded, dispatched them all with eight or ten stabs of the bayonet, except col. Walton, who happened to fall into the hands of a gentleman that had not renounced humanity.

Col. Campbell, in his letter to Sir Henry Clinton, dated Savannah the 19th of January, mentions the same number of dead found on the field, but adds eleven wounded—a very uncommon proportion indeed in the usual way of military encounters!—but the colonel says, Sir James, “with his usual gallantry, terminated the fate of the day with brilliant success.”

The whole force, in armed men, that were in or near Savannah, to oppose col. Campbell with 3000 regular troops, when he landed and took possession thereof, we are assured, did not exceed 600 men, including those of col. Huger and col. Thomson's regiments, and of col. Roberts's artillery sent from this state.

It is affirmed as a fact, that the plan of operations for the British troops in America this year, is to kill, burn and destroy every thing they are suffered to come nigh, along the sea coasts, and if possible to render defenceless every port on the continent.

The face of our affairs seems to be changing with the opening spring, and to flatter us with propitious events. The militia now flock to the camp in the interior country with alacrity, and express the most earnest desire for an early and active campaign: his excellency our governor arrived there last Thursday, in perfect health; he is accompanied by major Pierce Butler, who, notwithstanding his indifferent state of health, has taken upon him the laborious duty of adjutant-general. The army on the frontiers, under the command of brigadier-general Williamson, daily entreates in force; and the continental troops, under the immediate command of major-general Lincoln, have within these few days made a movement, in consequence of the enemy in Georgia, under brigadier-general Prevost, again attempting to advance into the country. All our armies are plentifully supplied, in good health, and high spirits; and it is to be hoped, that the abominable practice of monopolizers, extortioners, and some of the modern speculators, will soon meet with such a check as may successfully baffle the insidious projects of our secret enemies, and relieve the people who are most aggrieved thereby.

April 2. The British forces in Georgia having advanced higher up the country, has occasioned gen. Lincoln, with the main body of our army, to make a move-

Gen. Williamson's army is now considerably augmented; a detachment from it, consisting of six hundred horse, under the command of cols. Hammond and Pickins, have, within these few days, crossed Savannah river, and were in Georgia when the last advices came away.

B. O. S. T. O. N, April 13.

Extract of a letter from Certe, dated Nov. 16, 1778.
 "The impression which the news of the taking of
 Dominica made upon the people of Great-Britain, is
 as strong as you can well imagine. This first conquest
 of our enemies, spread a consternation through the
 three kingdoms. London, which takes the lead in all
 political ferment, has given on this occasion the most
 lively marks of the impatience and discontent is natural

HEREAS it is thought expedient and necessary, that select vestries be chosen in every parish within this state, for the preservation of the churches, and for the taking care of glebe-lands, and for other purposes; tending to the happiness and welfare of the state :

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That there be select vestries in each parish of this state, and that the several vestrymen of the several parishes within this state, that hereafter shall be choien, be such select vestry, of which vestry the number shall always be seven, except upon death, resignation, or other discharge, of any of them, according to the provision herein made for that purpose; and in such case of death or resignation, or other legal discharge from serving, the remaining part of such vestries shall, with all convenient speed, summon and appoint a general meeting of all the inhabitants of the said parish, entitled to vote, for delegates of assembly, and contributing to the charges of the said parish, who shall, by majority of voices, elect and chuse one or more sober and discreet person or persons of each respective parish, to supply such vacancies, and such person or persons so elected and chosen, shall take and subscribe the oath to the government required by the act of general assembly, entitled, An act for the better security of the government, and also take the following oath, viz. " I, B. do solemnly swear and declare, that I will justly and truly execute the office or trust of vestryman of _____ parish, according to my best skill and knowledge, with out prejudice, favour, or affection;" which said oaths, at the election of a new vestry, are to be administered by any justice of the peace of the county, city, or place, where such vestry is, who is hereby required and empowered to administer the same, and upon oaths afterwards, either by a justice of peace as aforesaid, or the said vestryman, who is hereby likewise required and empowered to administer the same, and each person so elected, chosen, and qualified, shall be, and not before, named and taken as one of the vestry, to all intents and purposes.

It is ~~ordered~~ That the first election for vestrymen
be on the first Monday in June next, on each pa-
ralish, the vestrymen to vote as a body, who
shall repair to their respective parish-churches for that
purpose.

And be it further enacted, That two vestrymen shall be annually chosen thereafter, in the room of two of the vestrymen, who shall be left out by ballot, unless resolution by their own consent and agreement, to which purpose all the inhabitants of every parish, being entitled to vote as aforesaid, and contributing to the charges thereof, or such of them as shall attend, shall repair to their respective parish churches every Easter Monday, and there, by their free choice, make the election aforesaid; which vestrymen, thus elected, shall make the oaths and qualify themselves in manner and form aforesaid.

And, For keeping a fair register of all such vestries
proceedings, and for registering of all births, marriages,
and burials, in each respective parish.

That each vestry shall and is hereby
 obliged to provide a fit person for a register, who shall
 at all times keep a true and fair registry of the several
 proceedings of such vestry, from time to time, in ex-
 ecuting their duty and authority, and making just and
 equitable returns; which person, to be appointed

[illegible]

that is to say, the christian and surname, with
the day, month, and yeare, of every such birth, mar-
riage, or buriall, where the same shall be made known
and register, and access to be recorded; under the
penalty of three pounds currentie, to be forfeited
to the register, for neglecting to enter it, having
first advertised for the same; And such register shall
be the custody of all former, parish registers, and is
lawfully obliged to shew any person or persons, reason-
ably desiring it, any such register, or give a certificate
of any births, marriages, or burials, that shall be reason-
ably required of him; and shall have for his fees from
such person two shillings and six pence for any search,
and two shillings and six pence for any copy or certi-
ficate given at a shrieve, and no more; which said regis-
ters, under the hands of such register, shall be re-
quired in evidence in all courts of justice within this

And, For the preventing of delays and other inconveniences which might happen, if there was a necessity for the attendance and presence of all the said vestrymen, at the same time to prevent the doing of any thing of consequence by surprise by a small number of them.

Be it ordered, That the first Monday in every month shall and is hereby fixed and ascertained for holding a vestry, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, in the usual place for that purpose, without any notice or warning to be given thereof; at which time and place, or any other meeting on due notice, the major part of the vestrymen then present (so as such majority be not under

Be it enacted, That the vestries of the respective parishes shall provide good and substantial writing books, well bound, sufficient for registering such proceedings in, according to the directions aforesaid, under the penalty of ten pounds currency: And, that there may be no neglect in the vestries, or those employed under

them, in the lawful and conscientious performance of their several charges and authorities reposed in them, no vestryman being personally summoned shall, without a lawful or reasonable excuse, absent himself, under penalty of such fine as the residue of the said vestry meeting shall lay upon him, so as the same never exceed three pounds currency; and upon default or neglect of the principal vestryman to summon a vestry when there is need for one, any other three of the vestry, or if there shall happen by any accident to be but two of the said vestry, besides the principal vestryman, residing in the said parish, such three or two shall have power and authority to summon and appoint a vestry to be holden and all such omissions and neglects to be noted in the vestry's register of proceedings.

And be it enacted, That the several and respective vestries are hereby further enjoined, with all convenient speed, and within six months at furthest, to procure a fair table of marriages, according to the late act of general assembly, to be transcribed, and the same set up in their respective churches, and the same kept continually in their said churches, under the penalty of ten pounds for the first neglect, and also ten pounds for every neglect thereafter.

And be it enacted, That the several vestries, together with such other of the inhabitants qualified as aforesaid, as shall think proper to attend, once every year on Easter Monday meet at their respective parish churches and there make choice of two sober and discreet persons of their parishes, and residing therein, to be church wardens for that year.

And be it enacted, That the first choice of churchwardens shall be on the first Monday in June next, by the inhabitants of each parish qualified as aforesaid; which churchwardens, to be chosen, shall take and subscribe the oath to the government required by law as aforesaid, and also take the following oath, to be administered unto him by the vestry, to whom power is hereby given to administer the same accordingly: "well and faithfully to execute that office for the ensuing year, according to the best of his skill and power, and until he shall be thereof duly discharged." And every such person, so chosen churchwarden, that shall wilfully refuse to serve in the said office and take the oaths aforesaid, shall be fined ten pounds currency.

And be it enacted, That all fines and penalties by this act imposed, shall be applied, one half to the use of the parish, the other half to the use of the informer, and when no informer, then the whole to be applied to the use of the parish.

And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall be chosen and elected a vestryman in any parish of this state, and being so chosen or elected, shall (after convenient notice thereof to him or them given by the register of the respective parish or parishes, where he or they shall be chosen and elected as aforesaid) refuse or neglect to repair to, and be present at, the next meeting of such vestry or vestries, and there qualify him or themselves as such vestryman or vestrymen, without a reasonable excuse, after such notice given to them as aforesaid, and notice of such meeting to be given to him or them by the said register, who is hereby directed to require to give such notice, under the penalty and forfeiture of ten pounds currency, that then every vestryman, so refusing or neglecting as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay twenty pounds currency.

And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority before
said, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any
town or vestries, and they are hereby empowered and di-
rected, to proceed to the choice and election of some
other person or persons, to be yeftyman or veltymen, in
the place or stead of such person or persons so chosen
veytymen or veltymen; and refusing or neglecting as
foresaid; and the former choice of such person or per-
sons as veytymen or veltymen, refusing or neglecting
shall be void and of no effect.

Provided always, That the power and authority by this prelat's act given to the vestry or vestries, for the election of a vestryman or vestrymen, churchwarden or churchwardens, and the fines and penalties by this act imposed on the vestryman or vestrymen, register or registers, churchwarden or churchwardens, refusing or neglecting the office and duty required of them: by this act, shall not be construed or understood to make any person or persons liable to such choice or penalties, which shall not be publicly known to be of the profession of religion known by the name of the Church of England: any thing in this act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And be it enacted, That the select vestries so to be chosen, and their successors, shall, as trustees of the parish, be vested with an estate in fee in all the glebe-land as also in all churches and chapels, and the lands thereto belonging, late the property of the people professing the religion of the Church of England; and also as trustees aforesaid shall have full property in all book-plate, and other ornaments, belonging to said church and chapels, or any of them.

And be it enacted, That the said vestrymen, or the major part of them, shall have full power and authority to employ a minister or reader of the Church of England to officiate in their respective churches or chapels, if