

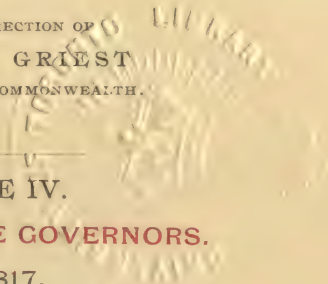
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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
HON. W. W. GRIEST
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.



VOLUME IV.
PAPERS OF THE GOVERNORS.
1785-1817.

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Proclamation of Pardon to the Participants in the
 "Whiskey Insurrection."

Pennsylvania, ss:

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY, OF
 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

By THOMAS MIFFLIN, Governor of the said
 Commonwealth.

A PROCLAMATION.



Whereas at the commencement of the late Insurrection in the western part of this State, constituting the Fourth Survey thereof, I deemed it expedient to attempt a vindication of the violated authority of the laws, and a restoration of peace, harmony and order, by the influence of reason and lenity upon the minds of the deluded and refractory Insurgents: And Whereas the better to promote so desirable an object, I appointed, authorised and employed The Honorable Thomas McKean, Chief Justice of this Commonwealth and Major General William Irvine (with full confidence in their wisdom, prudence and patriotism) as commissioners to confer with the said Insurgents, and on behalf of the Government of Pennsylvania to promise to them and every of them an act of pardon and oblivion for all past transgressions, upon receiving a satisfactory assurance of future submission to the laws.

And whereas the said Commissioners, in pursuance of the trust thus reposed in them, did by an Instrument under their hands, bearing date the 21st day of August in the year, 1794, promise, upon certain terms and conditions of this State, and of the United States.

Instrument specified, that if Western Counties should keep behaviour, until the first day an act of free and general pardon and oblivion of all treasons, insur-

rections, arsons, riots and other offences inferior to riots, committed, perpetrated, counselled or suffered by any person or persons, complying with the terms and conditions aforesaid, within the counties by the said Commissioners specified, since the 14th day of July in the year 1794, should be granted, so far as the said offences concerned the State of Pennsylvania, or the Government thereof: And Whereas it appears by a Proclamation, heretofore, issued by the President of the United States, that he has thought proper to extend the Pardon of the Government of the United States to all persons, who have been guilty of the Treasons or Misprisions of Treason in his said Proclamation specified, or who have been otherwise concerned in the said Insurrection within the said Survey, but who have not since been indicted or convicted thereof. And I am desirous on my part to pursue a like policy, as well on account of its humanity, as for the sake of preserving uniformity in the proceedings of the General and State Governments, in relation to the same important object: Therefore, I, Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have granted and by these presents do grant a full, free and entire pardon to all persons (not included in the exception hereinafter declared) of all treasons, insurrections, arsons, riots and other offences inferior to riots, committed within the said Fourth Survey, between the said 14th day of July and the 22nd day of August, in the year 1794, and which may have been and are indictable offences against the said State of Pennsylvania; together with a free and entire remission and release of all fines, forfeitures and penalties consequent thereon; Excepting and excluding always nevertheless from all the benefit and advantage, or any claim to the benefit and advantage, of the Pardon hereby granted, every person who has either refused to give the assurance of submission stipulated and required as aforesaid, or who having

given the same shall afterwards have deviated therefrom, and now actually stand indicted or convicted of any offence against the State of Pennsylvania.

Given under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Philadelphia, the 26th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and of the Commonwealth the Twentieth.

By the Governor,

A. J. Dallas,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Opening address to the Assembly—1795.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

THE CONSTITUTION HAS DECLARED, THAT the Executive Magistrate shall, from time to time, give to the General Assembly, information of the state of the commonwealth. In the performance of that duty, at the present period, I perceive, with satisfaction, that a variety of subjects occur to gratify your feelings, but none to excite a sentiment of regret.

The policy hitherto pursued, under the existing form of our government, has been uniformly justified and rewarded, by the effects which it has produced. Thus, in consummating the reformation of the penal code, one crime alone, deliberate murder, has been left, by your predecessors, to experience a sanguinary punishment: And yet, compared with our own situation but a few years ago, how obviously has the number of crimes decreased? Or, compared with the situation of other countries, how superior is the degree of security, which our persons and property enjoy? The operation of our system for extinguishing the public debt, and regulat-