RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1782.

By the United States in Congress assembled. August 8, 1782.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the States of Pennsylvania and Virginia immediately to draw out and order to Fort Pitt each state one hundred and fifty men properly officered and accoutered to be under the Orders of the Commanding officer of that Post to enable the said officer more effectually to cover and protect the Country.

That the Secretary at War and Superintendent of Finance take order that proper Magazines be laid up in the said fort which may enable the Commanding officer in case the said post should be invested by the Enemy to render it tenable until relieved.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Endorsed,—Read in Council, Aug. 13th, 1782, & orders issued accordingly.*

PRES. MOORE TO GOV. LIVINGSTON OF N. J., 1782.

Philada., August 8, 1782.

Sir,

By the Confession of Jesse Vickarst† now under sentence of death for having robbed one of the Treasurers of the County of Bucks, and by the confession of his brother Solomon, it appears, that two men of the name of Woodward who live near Crosswicks in your state, have been accomplices in the robbery of the treasury of that county, and that a certain Caleb Paul, also an accomplice in the same robbery, is now confined in the goal of the county of Monmouth, under another name. The Council are not possessed of a sufficient description of Paul, and have therefore ordered Mr. Forst, sub-sheriff of the County of Bucks, to endeavour to obtain it and transmit it herewith to your Excellency.

If Caleb Paul can be found, or the Woodwards taken, I beg you will please to order them to be delivered up to this state in such manner as shall be most agreeable to you.

I am with great regard
your Excellency's most obedient servant.

Directed,

His Exo'y, Govr. Livingston.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XIII., p. 347.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XIII., p. 342, 343, 344.
No. 1—Relating to Robbery of Bucks' Co. Treasury, 1782.

To the honorable William Moore, Esquire, President & others the members of the supreme executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The representation of the Persons whose names are undersigned sheweth,

That as Jesse Vickers who was lately convicted of Burglary at a Court of Oyer & Terminer held at Newtown in & for y' County of Bucks, & has received sentence of Death for the same, has since that time acknowledged guilt & Discovered several of his accomplices in villainy, some of whom have been apprehended & committed to Jail; and as it is very probable that other persons are associates in the late Robberies committed besides those already detected, & other convivest circumstances may be unfolded against them already in confinement if a little respite from the sentence of death be given to the aforesaid convicted person which advantages may be lost by a speedy execution. We cannot help humbly expressing it as our judgement that real benefit may arise to the public if y' execution of Jesse Vickers should be for a time deferred.

We are Gentlemen with the utmost respect yours &c.,

JAMES GRIESE,
W. McCALLA,
JOS. THOMAS,
WILLIAM HART,
DANIEL THOMAS,
ROBT. GIBSON, JR.,
JOSIAS FERGUSON,
THOS. DYER.

Directed,
The honorable William Moore and the Members of the supreme executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,—August 7th, 1782.

No. 2—Confession of Jesse Vickers.

People Concerned in Robbing of the Treasury of Newtown.

Ned Connard & his Brother, (name not known,) a Blacksmith, in Maryland.


Caleb Paul is now in Monmouth County Gaol. Told so by Joseph Tombleson, While the jury was out on his Tryal under a

Noticious name, further told him that before he was put into Goal, the said Paul was apprehended in Jersey as a suspicious Person, upon searching, found about 60 or 70 Dollars with him, but had address sufficient to knock down the Guard and make his escape, with the loss of his Horse & Saddle.

John Tombleson harbored them & supplied them with Vittuals at this time, as well as for a year or two before & received a 140 hard Dollars & a Quantity of State money for his share; as mentioned in his former Confession that he had frequently saw Refugees at his House, that he believes him to be one of the principal persons in forming the plan for Robbing the Treasury, that he frequently waited on John Atkinson in Newtown for information; concerning the sums of money in the Treasury, & suitable time for attacking it; that a few days before the said Robbery he was at John Tombleson's & went with John to his Barn that he there saw Six or Seven Guns & Moses & Aaron Dones cleaning the said guns & making Carriages & Bullets.

After they had finish'd making their Carriages, &c., they came in to the House & got their Dinners & be Dined with them; that at this time John Tombleson & the two Dones pressed him to go with them to Rob the Treasury, which, he refused being fearful, and told them it was dangerous, that there was a Guard over the Treasury. Tombleson replied that he had a man in Town that acquainted him with every thing that passed in Newtown. Tombleson brought a Gun lock to Atkinson to mend two Days before the Treasury was Robed; that he frequently saw Refugees that was concerned in the said Robbery as well as others harbored at his House, and likewise British Prisoners concealed there & further says he has reason to believe Joseph Tombleson son to John Tombleson knew of the Robbery of the Treasury altho' he never spoke with him upon the subject, nor does he think drew any share, he heard some of the Company say he did not—that he dont know that Margaret Tombleson wife of John Tombleson was acquainted with their intention, but from circumstances thinks it impossible but she must.

Amos White of Buckingham—frequently harbored numbers of Refugees, and the Sunday before the Robbery of Treasury, delivered flints to Maylon Dones which he had purchased in Phila. for him, which flints were used on that expedition, and further saith, that he dont know of his certain knowledge, that he received a share, or was acquainted with their Plot before the Robbery but is convinced from circumstances that has happened since that he was acquainted with it; that since the Robbery, about the 1st of June last White concealed a Quantity of Goods for Moses Dones.

Moses Winder—was acquainted with their intention of Robbing the Treasury that he had conversed with him about it, that Winder who was himself a Collector ingaged to carry in his money & to acquaint them when there was a sufficient quantity of money in the Treasury for them to make the attack,—the first Plan was to Rob Winder when he should have his money Collected but Winder
alter'd his mind, and urg'd the other plan. Winder get 30 Dollars paid by Moses Done, altho' he querry'd with Done why Winder did not get more as he thinks at the Distribution he was allowed almost a whole share; Winder was not with them at the Robbery; he went into Jersey, he further smit', that since he was apprehended upon suspicion of that Robbery he broke Goal, & in Company with Aaron Done went to Winders house, Winder told them he was sorry they had not come a little sooner for that Cap. Stillwell his Neighbour had just received a large sum of money (near £200) to pay the militia, and he might easily be Robed of it, that he knew he had no arms in his House, for he had reconter'd him for that purpose; Done & him was at Winders House all Night; he knew Winder to have harb'd those Dones & their Companions ever since the British was in Phila. he says he heard Winder say he knew that Saml. Burns a Refugee did steal two Horses & carry them into Philada. he thinks the Horses belonged to a Mr. Kirbreygh; Winder told him so.

Joseph Doan Senr. of Plumstead.—He dont know that this man was acquainted with their intention before the Robbery, but is positive that he was acquainted with it after it was done, that he borrow'd £25 of the money of his son Moses, he heard him advise his sons to leave the place for that the Robbery of the Treasury had made a great disturbance & that they would certainly be found out, they mentioned there was no danger—he knew him to have harb'd his sons & their Companions ever since the British were in Phila. Between two & three months ago he was at the House of Joseph Doan Senr. where he saw Moses & Aaron Doan and with them a man who they told him was from Chester County his name he has forgot, he was a large stout well made fellow and remarkably active, Doan told him, that this fellow lately Robbed a mail in Chester County under pretence of giving a letter to the postrider seiz'd the man & pull'd him of his Horse, Doan told him that this fellow got a number of Guinea's for Robbing the mail.

Joseph Tombleson of Writstown the 2d—was acquainted with the intention of Robbing the Treasury several Days before the Robbery the Pauls told him so & he has other reasons to believe so—that he received 40 hard Dollars for his share from Moses Doan—that he knew Doan to have been harb'd at his House frequently with many other Refugees & British Deserters, and to have consealed one British Deserter for three weeks, that was taken near the Cowpens in Carolina til Moses Doan came & pillited him to New York—about a Year & a half ago Joseph Tombleson first recommended to Moses Doan & himself the Plan of Robbing Collectors &co.,

Solomon Vicas.—Was along at the Robbery of the Office, that he got his share of 140 hard Dollars, that he was Civilian at Mr. Hart's the Treasurer's house, at the Back part of it, he did not come in front lest Mr. Hart should know him, that he has been several times with them at John Tombleson's.
John Atkinson, of Newtow—Was acquainted with the intention of Robbing the Treasury, that he informed John Tombleson that there was no Guard at the Treasury, & that there was a considerable sum of money then in the Treasury, that he repaired a Gun Lock for them for the expedition, that he received 20 hard Dollars for his share from Moses Doan, that he gave it to him some place where Atkinson was burning a Coal Kiln.

Robby, Steel,
George Burns,
two Woodwards,
of Jersey, near Crosswicks.

Aaron Doan,
Moses Doan,
George Sinclair,
Maylon Doan,
Jeremiah Cooper.  

Were present at the Robbery of the Office.

Was present at the Robbery of the Office.

said Cooper piloted the Woodwards from Jersey.

All received full Shores, 140 hard Dollars.

N. B. Jesse Vicars says he frequently saw the Hessian Doctor at John Tombleson's, and he appeared to be very intimate with Tombleson.

ROBBERY OF COLLECTORS.—Jesse Vicars was at John Tombleson's, and John told him that he had bribed Capt. Ralph Williamson, who was a Collector of militia fines, and that Tombleson & Capt. Williamson had agreed that when Williamson should collect about 80 Pounds, John Tombleson was to send two Fellows to Rob him, & Williamson was to be absent at the Shoemaker's, that Col. Hart came to Williamson's house the afternoon before he was to have been Robbed, that he hurried the money to the office, Williamson went to John Tombleson and told him that old Hart, the Damned Rascal, had come and carried the money to the office, but that he had near £30 more to Collect, & he would collect it as soon as possible and Acquaint him with it, and in some time after Williamson did acquaint Tombleson that he had collected near £25—and John Tombleson sent Moses Doan & some other person, who took the money from Williamson's wife Williamson was at the Shoemaker's, and afterwards divided it between John Tombleson, Doan & his accomplice, & Williamson, Williamson got the largest share. Tombleson complained that he cheated them.

Moses Doan & George Sinclair.—Robed Groover of Sundry Goods & money left in his possession by a Pedlar—Moses Doan himself told me so.

About three months ago Moses Doan told me that the Hessian Doctor, Henry Myres, promised to furnish him with a case of Pistols, which Doan was going for on that evening.
ROBBERY OF JOB BARTON, COLLECTOR OF BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP.—Robt. Steel, Aaron Dean, Jesse Vicars, were the persons that committed this Robbery. We started from John Tombelson's House, the plan was concerted there with the assistance of John Tombelson. We got near 40 pounds from Barton. Tombelson got his full share.—John Tombelson first mentioned the affair to me, and persuaded me to go with them, told me that if I would go & shew them the Road they would not ask me to do anything more, that I carried no Arms, but stood at a Distance in the Garden while the other two committed the Robbery.

ROBBERY OF JOHN KEITH, COLLECTOR, UPPER MAKEFIELD.—I was innocent of this Robbery, & was not at the House that Night. Aaron Dean told me that it was him & his Brother Moses that committed that Robbery, & that it was him, Aaron, that went thro' the House.

Moses & Aaron were the men that stole two Horses from James & Israel Anderson, of Buckingham Township, last Spring, the Doans acknowledged it to me.

Joseph Tombelson (son of John Tombelson) and Moses Dean stole William Simpson's Gray Stallion, swam him across Delaware, took him Down into the Pines, but were disappointed in getting him off.

Jesse Vicars Was present at the Robbery of the Treasury—John Tombelson first acquainted him with the intention of Robbing the Treasury of Newtown—Moses & Aaron Dean were cleaning Guns at the Barn when Tombelson took me to the Barn to them, the party stayed two or three Days about John Tombelson's House & Barn & Woods near, before they went to Rob the Treasury. On Saturday before the Robbery I went to Newtown with John Tombelson, to get John Atkinson to mend a Gun Lock, which he did. The Monday Night following we Rob'd the Treasury, Moses Dean rode thro' the Town to see if the coast was clear, fell'd at John Atkinson's, but did not see John, came thro' the Town, surrounded Mr. Hart's (the Treasurer's) House—I stood Sentinel at the Gate, while Steel, Doans, Woodards & Pauls went in & presented a Pistol to Mr. Hart's Breast & made him deliver up the money & Key of the Office—Woodard carried the Key of the Office from Mr. Hart's House to the Office—that we went from Newtown to Writestown School House, Where we divided the money, there was Sixteen or Seventeen full Shares, Which was near 140 Dollars hard, and about as much State money a Share & several other Shares from 20 to 40 Dollars, Given to Winder, Atkinson, & Joseph Tombelson—we were supplied with Vittuals by John Tombelson for two Days before the Robbery.

Indorsed.—1782, August 7th, Confession of Jesse Vicars, now under sentence of death, at Newtown. Taken before James Tate & Daniel Forst.
I was with the party that Night the Treasury of Newtown was robbed, I was placed Centinal at Back of the House, Steel went into the House first, Woodwards & Paul follow'd, I followed the party from Mr. Hart's House to the Office, was placed Centinal by the corner of the Goal over an inhabitant who we met; when we left Newtown we went to Writestown School House, where we divided the money. I was not in the House when the money was divided, I don't know how many Shares there was, but believe there was 14 or 15. I got for my share between 130 & 140 hard Dollars & about Sixty State Dollars. I saw them divide the State money, they divided that by Bills without any respect to their sums and some in sheets, which was Divided same way. Maylon Doan & Jesse Vicars first acquainted me with the design of Robbing the Treasury some few Days before it was executed. I met with the party a Sunday morning in a piece of woods near John Tombleson's, who directed me where I should find them, & I found the following persons.

Moses & Aaron Doan, John & Caleb Paul, Ned. Connard, two men the name of Woodwards, from Jersey, first names I did not know, & we was not at liberty to ask each others names. In the afternoon Maylon Doan, Robt, Steel, & Jeremiah Cooper came to us, there was several others there who's names I did not know.

Jesse Vicars was with us that Day—John Tombleson was frequently with us, and supplied us with Victuals, was with us the evening of the Robbery just before we set off, & was talking with John Paul something about Newtown, giving Directions, as I thought, how to proceed, he was not with us at the Robbery, but he drew his full share of hard money at the School House at Writestown—after the Division we went which way we pleased. I never was concerned with any of the Company in anything of the like nature, (or any body else) in my life before. Farther saith, that about two Weeks ago he was in Company with George Sinclair & Aaron Doan at John Tombleson's, and they told him that they about a Week before had rob'd a post, & took his mail, some place near the falls, & that they had sent the mail to New York with Caleb Paul—that there was at that time at John Tombleson's a man the name of Giddion Varnam, from Chester County, who told me that some time before he had taken a mail in Chester County under pretence of giving the man a letter for his excellency, Gen. Washington, Seized him & dragged him from his Horse—he was a large, stout, well made man, & remarkably Active. I found these People at Tombleson's & left them there.

I heard Aaron Doan & Robt. Steel say that they & Jesse Vicars committed the Robbery on Joab Barton, Collector of Buckingham.
I know nothing of Keith's Robbery, nor ever saw the House.
Moses Doan told me that himself & George Sinclare Robbed Groover of the Pedlar's money & Goods.
John Tomblenson told me that Aaron Doan & John Paul were the men that were at the Widow Keith's, endeavoring to prevent her from appearing against Jesse Vicars.
I do acknowledge this Confession to have been made by me & to contain nothing but the truth, to the best of my knowledge.

SOLOMON VICKERS.

Taken before us,
JAMES TATE,
DAVID FORST.

Indorsed,
1782, August 7th, Confession of Solomon Vickars, now confined in the Gaol of Newtown.

---

No. 4—Confession of Solomon Vickars, continued.

ROBBERY OF COLLECTORS.—JAMES SNOTGRASS.—Moses Doan, Abram Doan & Levi Doan, Solomon Vicars, left our homes in the evening that James Snotgrass, the Collector, was Rob'd, all of us arm'd. Met in the grate Road, near Joseph Doan's, & proceeded from their Directly to James Snotgrass, for the purpose of taking the publick money, knowing him to be a Collector. After some inquiry went into the House; M. Doan demanded the publick money of his Daughter. She after some threats shew it to us. We got 8 or 10 Hard Dolls, & 80 State Dolls. We left the house, and every one went to his own home.

Abram Doan told me that John Ferril must have a Dollar for telling us the proper time for committing the Robbery & Directing us the way to Snotgrass's House, and Abram Doan Deduc'd so much out of our share.

SMITH.—About the 28th of March, Abram Doan, Joseph Doan, & Levi Doan, & myself, agreed to go to the Swamp to rob one Smith, a Collector. We met in a piece of Woods by the road, & then proceeded to Richardson's Tavern, in Quaker Town; we halted their, & Drank about two Dollars worth. Went from their to Smith's House, & Richardson's Brother went with us & shew us the way. Was acquainted with our design by Joseph Doan. Near 12 o'Clock, went to the fore Door, all but me; broke at the fore Door of the Kitchen. We got from him one French Crown, it being all the money we could find. After he had shown us his Receipt from the Treasurer, we left the House. We was informed
by Richards, the Tavern Keeper in Quaker Town, that was a proper
time to attack Smith, the Collector, as he had a Quantity of money
then by him. I understood that Richards was to have had a share
for his information, if we got anything considerable, but as we got
but one French Crown, he got none. We dispersed when we got
near home, & every one went to his own house.

 Weaver in Tinnicum.—Joseph Doan & myself went together
from Doan’s House to one Weaver’s, a Collector of Taxes in Tinnicum,
and forced open the Door, & went into the House. I asked him for
the money he had collected, & he got some out of a Chest & laid it
on a Bed, which I took—about 10 or 13 Dollars hard, & about £5
State, & the same night returned home the same Night.

 Hole, a Collector in Tinnicum.—Moses Doan, Aaron Doan,
Abram Doan, & myself met by Israel Doan; proceeded 4 or 5 miles
to a Mr. Hole, a Collector in Tinnicum; open’d the Door, went in—
the family was not gone to Bed—and demanded his money. After
searching the House found one Dollar, which we took, & returned
home about 12 O’Clock at Night.

 George Sinclair & Caleb Paul took Col. Hart’s Horses, I was
told so at John Tombleson’s by some of the party.

 Jesse Vicars says that Moses Doan told him at John Tombleson’s
Aaron Doan & George Sinclair, & Moses Doan took Mr. Shaw’s
Horse and Mr. Thomas’s Horse, but don’t know what they did with
them.

 Hold’s 2d Robbery.—Abram Doan and Solomon Vicars com-
mitted this robbery.—We set off from Israel Doan’s on Horse
back in the evening. Was not gone to Bed—open’d the Door &
went in. Doan demanded his money; said something about swear-
ing against Col. Morris. Ordered him to Collect no more; got
about 8 Shillings from him. Took his Duplicates and a Pinchback
Watch. Returned home that Night.

 Sacket’s Horse.—I was at Joseph Doan’s house, and asked for
Moses Doan, & was told he was in the Woods. I went to him,
& found him with a Black Roan Horse hitched near him; asked
him where he got that Horse; he laugh’d, & made no answer.
At length found him to be Mr. Sacket’s Horse. By M. Doan’s
Confession he told me how he got him—that he caught him in a
field.

 I went to John Blaker’s House; was informed he was in the
field; I went to him there; I enquired of him if he thought my
Brother would be hang’d, or if he thought there would be a possi-
bility of Rescuing him.

SOLOMON VICKERS.

We the Subscribers do Certify that the above examination was
taken & subscribed before us.

JOSEPH HART.
TIMOTHY TAYLOR.
No. 5—A farther examination of Jesse Vickers taken before us the subscribers.

Moses Doan told this examinant that he was not afraid to trust Jo. Mires, the Hessian Doctor, with any secret, & that he the Doctor was to provide him with a case of pistols—that the said Doan was frequently at the said Doctor's House; that he went there in the dead hours of the night. Mr. Doan was a refugee, & dare not appear at any other time. & farther says that the said Doan told this examinant that the Hessian Doctor informed him that a Mr. John Thompson, his neighbour had received a large sum of money for the purpose of purchasing provisions for the French Army; & that the said Doctor was to inform him, the said Doan, a proper time to rob Mr. Thompson.

And farther saith, that he has frequently saw the Doctor at John Tombleson's, with whom he appeared to be very intimate—and had known him to come to Tombleson's house in the night with Tombleson, & stay there all night, his own wife being in the Naborhood & nobody sick at Tombleson's.

This examinant farther says sometime ago he was at the House of Elezer Doan, who told this examinant that Moses Doan & George Sinclair had been at his house some time before, and went from his House to rob a certain of money & goods, late property of a Pedlar, who died at his House, first making their intentions known to said Elezer Doan, who told this examinant that the Dutchman had fooled Moses Doan & George Sinclair—for the money was in the House, & he would not give it to them. Elezer Doan beg'd this examinant never to speak of this transaction.

Jesse Vickers.

Joseph Hart, Timothy Taylor.


No. 6—Gov. Livingston, of N. J., to Pres. Moore, 1782.

Sir,

Trenton, 10th August, 1782,

I was yesterday honoured with your Excellency's Letter of the 6th instant.—With respect to Paul, he is already safely lodged in goal in Philadelphia; and as to Woodward, the judicial department of this State has taken every necessary step to bring him to justice.

I heartily congratulate your Excellency on the detection of this knot of Villains, which may probably lead to the discovery of more of the fraternity concerned in various robberies & burglaries in both States.

I have the honour to be with great esteem, your Excellency's most obedient & very humble Servant,

W.I. Livingston.

Directed.—(On publje service.)

His Excellency William Moore, Esq'r, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 344.