

18. As a great grievance the bad condition of the public roads and bridges; and as we find it a subject of general complaint in other counties, we are induced to believe that the present system is defective in policy and inadequate to the accomplishment of the great and salutary purposes of making and keeping good roads and bridges. We therefore take the liberty of recommending to the General Assembly, laying of a moderate tax which will reach every person here liable to work on the roads, in lieu of the present mode, in which it is found that the greater number avoid turning out and labouring as the law direct.

19. We also present the little regard which is paid to the religious observance of the Lord's Day; and recommend to our magistrates a more rigorous execution of the laws for the prevention and punishment of the violation of this necessary duty.

20. We present as a grievance that the laws are not revised and promulgated, whereby the magistrates may be better enabled to perform the duties of their office, and the people at large acquainted therewith.

21. We present as a grievance the want of a court house; and recommend that application be made to the next legislature for leave to sell a portion of the commons of the town, to be laid out in lots, in aid of the other county funds for this purpose.

We perfectly accord with his Honour the Judge in his opinion that the character of grand juries should be above supplanting the sinking popularity of any mischievous influence, or of adding weight to a domineering faction (and we are happy farther to observe that no such influence has come within our knowledge.) We should rather repress than countenance such political evils; and have no hesitation to declare it as our opinion that former grand juries have acted upon that principle. We therefore feel it our duty to dispense with the usual recommendation for the publication of his Honor's charge, it being evidently calculated to produce the effects which he recommends us to avoid by our presentment, and aims unmerited censure at the heads of other departments contrary to his own maxims.

We further recommend that our presentments be published.

James Parsons, J. Raifard, Joseph Barber, John Harrington, Thomas Newly, Bls. Harvey, John Chairs, Benjamin Browning, James Spivey, Peter Chastain, Vinson Rowell, Ph. Clayton, Mathew Caswell, David Jameson, John Clements, Benjamin Duffey, Z. Lamar, Abner Hammond, Bird Tarver, John Jacob Schley, John Kennedy.

*Louisville, 13th April, 1799.*

NOTE. When the charge was delivered, general satisfaction was apparent both in the grand jury and the audience; and when they had got to their room, it was proposed, and not objected to, that there should be no party presentments; or any thing attended to but the county business.

But, on the night of the second day of the court, a partial meeting was had, without the presence, knowledge, or sanction of the foreman, after several individual interviews with the Governor, at which the concluding paragraph of the presentment was agreed upon.