Mr. Jefferson presents his compliments to Mr. Reid, and his apologies after so long abstraction from law questions, for venturing into them with Mr. Reid, who is entirely familiar with them. But he means only to make such suggestions as may draw Mr. Reid's attention to the subject of their yesterday's conversation. He has no law books here but the Abingdon's, by learning to compare digests. Prohibition V. to Bacon, abr. Prohibition X. Mr. Reid will find a multitude of cases proving the universality of the use of the unit of Prohibition. 4. 3 Blackst. c. 7. (12) says expressly, "This unit may issue either to inferior courts of common law, &c. or it may be directed to the courts Christian, Chivalry, Admiralty, &c." Whether therefore we consider the state courts as proceeding by a common law, or a foreign law, they seem subject to be kept within their limits by a prohibition. The importance of this question to the U.S. renders it interesting, because if the disaffected court of Suffolk can carry off all the revenue arising in the Delaware, without any control, it will produce a kind of legal insurrection which may extremely embarrass the general government. Should the question ever be doubtful, or should the federal judge refuse to issue a prohibition, the question, in my opinion, ought to be made to come before the supreme court for the purpose of settling the point. He again apologizes for the importance of the case for even suggesting to Mr. Reid, that he is too much able to investigate for himself.
