CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE.

"THE END OF EVERY GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE."

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LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Passed at December Session, 1801.
CHAPTER 54.

An act relating to the Public Roads in the several Counties therein mentioned.

WHEREAS the present mode of repairing the public roads in Saint Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Caroline and Dorchester counties, is found by experience to be expensive, and inadequate to the purpose intended, and it has been found necessary that proper regulations should forthwith be made for keeping the roads of the said counties in due repair; therefore,

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Justices of the Levy Court for the counties aforesaid, or a majority of them, be and they are hereby authorised and required to meet together on the third Monday of April next, and on the same day in every year thereafter, at the respective Court Houses in the said counties, and when so met together, the said justices, or a majority of them, shall be, and they are hereby authorised and required to describe, ascertain, and distinctly record in a well bound book, to be provided by them for that purpose, the several and respective roads and public highways in the counties aforesaid, and to nominate and appoint capable and judicious persons as overseers of the several and respective roads aforesaid, according to the number and divisions of the said roads, as the same shall be ascertained upon their records: provided, nevertheless, that the said roads shall be so apportioned, divided and described, as not to require a greater number of overseers than five in any one hundred of the said counties, and that the said justices, or any one or more of them, may adjourn from day to day until the said roads shall be duly ascertained, and overseers appointed as aforesaid, and in case neither of the said justices should attend as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the County Court to make said adjournments.

III. And be it enacted, that the clerk of the said county shall attend the justices of the Levy Court at their said meetings, and shall make fair entries and records of their proceedings in virtue of this act, and shall, within the space of ten days after the appointment of overseers as aforesaid, issue warrants to the said overseers, under his hand and the seal of his office, notifying the said persons of their appointments respectively as overseers of the said roads, according to the usual forms, having respect to the alterations required by this act, and the said clerk shall, within the time aforesaid, deliver the said warrants to the Sheriff of the several counties aforesaid, and shall take the receipt of the Sheriff for the same; and the said Sheriff shall be and he is hereby authorised and required, within the space of fifteen days after receiving the said warrants, to deliver the same to the respective arersons appointed overseers as aforesaid and to take their several receipts for the same; and if any of the said overseers shall refuse to receive their respective warrants, the said sheriff shall leave the same at their place of abode, and certify the justices of the levy court thereof; and if the clerk or sheriff of any of the said counties shall neglect or refuse to execute and perform the respective duties herein before required, within the respective periods limited as aforesaid, the said clerks or sheriffs so neglecting or refusing shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars for each and every offence.

IV. And be it enacted, That each and every person so appointed overseer as aforesaid, who shall neglect or refuse to accept of his appointment, after receiving his warrant as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars for every refusal or neglect; provided nevertheless, that no person shall be liable to be appointed as overseer of any road more than one year in every three years, without his consent.

V. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said overseers to keep all public roads in the said counties well & sufficiently cleared and grubbed, fit for travelling, twenty feet wide at the least, except in such parts thereof where the levy court shall allow or direct the said road to be of a less width, and to make and keep good and substantial bridges over all the heads of rivers, creeks, branches and swamps, where the same shall be necessary, for the convenient and easy passage of travellers, with their waggons, carts, carriages, horses and cattle, and to remove all nuisances which may obstruct or annoy their passage, and well and sufficiently to causeway all and singular such places in and upon the said roads as shall require the same.

VI. And be it enacted, That if any of the said overseers shall not well and sufficiently clear, grub, amend and repair, the said several and respective roads committed to their charge, within a reasonable time after the same shall be out of repair, or shall not make and keep in repair good and substantial bridges over the heads of rivers, creeks, branches or swamps, where the same shall be necessary asaforesaid, or shall notnot remove all nuisances from the said roads, or shall not well and sufficiently causeway all and singular such places in and upon the said roads as shall require the same, or shall permit or suffer any fallen trees, or other obstruction, to remain in or across any of the said public roads for the space of two days after notice thereof, or shall neglect to fell, or cause to be felled & removed, all decayed or dead trees on either side of the said public roads, whose limits, or any of them, hang over the same, and may by their falling injure travellers, or shall not lop and cut off all limbs or branches of trees hanging or projecting over the said roads, within fifteen feet above the surface thereof, or shall in any other manner fail or neglect to perform the duties of an overseer of the said roads, according to the directions of this act, every such overseer, so failing or neglecting, shal forfeit and pay the sum of five dollars for every offence, except in time of wheat harvest.

VII. And be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the several and respective overseers of the said roads, and they are hereby authorised and empowered, as often as need shall require, to dig, take and remove, any stones, gravel, or earth of firm quality, which may be found on any land adjoining the roads for which the same may be necessary, and to employ the same in the repairing of the said roads; and for the making or repairing of bridges over the heads of rivers, creeks, branches, swamps, or other low and miry places, through and over which the said roads may pass, to cut down, or cause to be cut down, any tree or trees growing on any of the next adjacent lands to such places where bridges may be necessary as aforesaid, and the same trees to maul and carry away from off such lands, and to apply the same to the making or repairing of the said bridges; provided, that it shall be the duty of each and every overseer aforesaid to render a true account, (certified under their hands and seals respectively,) of all and singular such tree or trees by them cut down and taken for the purpose aforesaid, with a description of the size and quality of such tree or trees, together with their estimation of the value thereof, to the owner, tenant or overseer, of the lands from whence the same shall shall have been taken, and to return a duplicate of such account, on oath, to the next levy court of the county, in order that the justices of said court may be enabled to estimate the real value thereof, to be allowed or paid to such owner or owners in such manner as said justices shall appoint and direct.

VIII. And be it enacted, That the said overseers shall have power, and they are hereby authorised and required, to call upon all and singular the free able bodied male inhabitants of their respective limits, above the age of eighteen years and under the age of fifty years, and upon all and singular the able bodied male slaves residing therein, above the age of eighteen years and under the age of fifty years, to labour and assist in clearing, amending, improving and repairing, the several and respective roads aforesaid, and to require such and so many of the said persons as they shall from time to time deem necessary, to assemble at such place within their respective limits as the said overseers shall severally appoint, with sufficient implements of labor, and thereupon to proceed in the execution of such work and labor upon the said roads, for the improvement and repair thereof, as the respective overseers shall order and direct; and the said overseers shall also have power to hire and employ carts and teams for the carrying and removing all such stones, dirt, gravel and timber, as may be deemed requisite for repairing and completing the said roads and bridges, and the expence of such carts and teams shall be levied upon the county.

X. And be it enacted, That as often as the said overseers shall judge it necessary to call upon the said inhabitants for their labor in and upon the said roads, they shall summon, or cause to be summoned, the number and class which they shall have previously arranged, having had regard to the quantity and quality of work necessary to be done upon the said roads, giving each person, and the master, mistress or overseer of each servant or slave, so to be summoned, two days notice at the least of the time and place appointed for their labor, except in such extraordinary cases which may require a shorter notice, and every person so summoned shall be obliged to attend in person, or to provide a sufficient substitute; and if any person, being so summoned, shall neglect or refuse to attend, or to provide a sufficient substitute, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of seventy-five cents for every offence; and if any person shall attend, and not perform the reasonable labor required of him by the overseer of the road, according to his ability, he shall be adjudged a defaulter, and shall incur the same penalty as if he had neglected to attend; and in case the master, mistress or overseer, of any servant or slave, upon being notified as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to send such servant or slave, such master, mistress or overseer, shall forfeit and pay the sum of seventy-five cents for every servant or slave so refused to be sent.

XI. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said overseers to keep a true and proper list of all and every person or defaulter, who, being summoned as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to attend at the times and places appointed as aforesaid, or if attending, shall not perform his reasonable labour, and of every master, mistress or overseer of servants and slaves, who call upon each and every of the said persons, and demand the payment of all and singular the sums of money by them, or any of them, so forfeited, and on refusal or neglect to pay the same, the said overseers shall proceed to recover the same before a single magistrate, by due course of law; and the said overseers shall, every six months, render their accounts of all fines and forfeitures received by them in virtue of this act to the justices of the levy court, upon oath, or affirmation, and pay the amount thereof in such manner as the said justices shall order and appoint.

XIV. And be it enacted, That any of the justices of the peace of the said counties, who, upon his own view, or on the information, oath or affirmation, of one or more credible witnesses, shall discover or be satisfied that any bridge, road or causeway, is out of repair, from neglect of duty of the overseer within whose limits the same shall be, except in time of wheat harvest, shall issue his warrant, in the name of the state, against such overseer, and if judgment shall be rendered against him for the fine or forfeiture imposed by this act, the same shall be certified by the justice rendering the same to the clerk of the said county, who shall thereupon issue process of execution, directed to the sheriff, for the recovery thereof, and the same shall be accounted for and paid to the order of the levy court; provided nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall prevent any of the said overseers offending against the provisions of this act from being presented by the grand jury for any neglect of duty not before punished by any of the justices of the peace as aforesaid; and provided also, that any overseer of the road against whom judgment shall be rendered by a justice of the peace as aforesaid, may appeal to the next county court, who may hear and determine the same in a summary way, and such appeal shall be a supersedeas to the issuing execution on the judgment of such justice, until the same shall be heard and determined by the county court.

July 15 tf

POETRY.

REFLECTIONS OF A BRIDESMAID.

"Yes, the heart of the bridesmaid is desolate now,"
And sorrow has shaded her fair open brow;
For the sister she loved to another has gone,
And the heart of the bridesmaid is lone and forlorn.

The bright cheering looks that once welcomed her home,
(From a sister how much brighter they ever must come,)
Are now to be *shared*—no, *bestowed*—on another,
And the sister is left for the husband and lover.

"Oh, the heart of the bridesmaid is desolate now,"
For she stood by the altar, and listen'd to the vow,—
That gave to another the friend of her youth,
Yet she should rejoice, for his love is all truth.

Yes, another is happy—his home will be blest,
With the bright sunny smiles of her we love best,
And she will be cherished with affectionate care,
Her home will be happy—but *mine* is not there!

"Oh, the heart of the bridesmaid is desolate now,"
And purest affection is seen on her brow;
For the star of her home on another will shine,
To comfort and cheer him, as once it did mine.

But love him, my sister,—I joy that 'tis so;
He is worthy of thee, and the love you bestow;
And when time shall pass on, with the scenes that are now,
The heart of the bridesmaid resigned then will be.

MINNA.

CURIOSITY.

FOUR persons felt inclined their steps to bend,
To see the Broadway museum of their friend;
Who had selected with much skill and care,
'Midst other things, a set of paintings rare.
With judgment good, and taste the most refin'd,
Their admiration was of purest kind.
'But stay! what's here—a picture hid with baize?
This ticket will explain—I'll read'—it says,
'The ladies are requested not to look
Beneath this cloth;' the hint of course they took;
No further information to obtain,
They silently pursued their lounge again.
'Come now in this room,' said the host with glee;
'I've something worth your notice Major B——;
I hope your son also will join us there.
The ladies will excuse his presence here.'
No sooner had the trio left the room,
Than the two fair ones manifested soon
A strong desire to clear the mystery
Of the strange picture in obscurity,
'Should you not like to peep?' said Mrs. P——,
'Indeed I should,' replied the fair Miss C——;
'But not for the world would I be *seen* to look.'
Then in her hand the elder lady took
The corner of the curtain that conceal'd
The wonderous picture now to be reveal'd—
'Much better would it be, I think, my dear,
Were I alone to look at first for fear;
And if it prove attractive, you shall see—
The harm is none, I'm sure you will agree.'
Pourtray, ye gentle fair ones, with due care,
The consternation of this curious pair,
Who with impatience just prepar'd to gaze,
With curious eye beneath the piece of baize,
Through to the anti-room now met their eyes
A piece of glass about a picture's size,
And form'd a substitute in this disguise.
Alas! behind this glass what caught their view,
But the *three gentleman* they so well knew,
Who left the room expressly just to see
How great would be their curiosity!

MAJOR DOWNING—3d LETTER.

We have just received from Rockaway the following "petition" from our friend "the Major" addressed to Congress—"the representatives of the people.

We have, we confess, been led into the *popular belief* that nothing short of *weighty power*—something of *metalic* character at least, could *lift us* out of our present difficulty,—but we find that we, in common with a large and extended circle, are in error—and that when we come to *lifting* we want a *power* of a directly opposite character.— we further confess that we never have seen the credit system *shadow'd forth* more adroitly and more appropriately. The Major will see, when he comes to get the President's Message, that the President don't agree with him as to the *expediency* of getting off the "Two Pollies" or any other Polly—though he does indirectly hint at the use of something not unlike the Major's plan, in the way of *lifting*, in the shape of Treasury Notes. We expect now to hear from the Major on the matters introduced in the Message, and as the President very frankly asks free discussion, we shall no doubt, soon be able to to see through the "fog bank," if we can't through other Banks.

To the Representatives of the People of the United States of North America, in Congress at Washington.

ROCKAWAY, Sept, 4th, 1837,
Near the reck of the Two Pollies,

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,—I have been wistin for this day to come ever since the Two Pollies was run on shore by Captain Jumper, so that I could lay the case right afore the hull people in one swing, for there is no way of gettin any matter well attended to, that belongs to the people, till their representatives all git together at Washington in Congress.—I look upon you jest as I would on a barral of cider bouled down to a quart—for the hull barral is in that quart, and jest so the hull people are in you.

I suppose that you all know that the Two Pollies is on shore, and that owin to that condition she is in considerable peril—both masts are broken off, and very leetle more than her hull is left. It is pretty well known how she got in this snarl—and the next thing is to see if some plan can't be fixed on to get her out on't. You have the power to do this, & as every body knows & feels that there is not and never has ben and never will be agin, any vessel afloat that can compare with the "Two Pollies,"—it is your duty to see that some means are taken to get her off shore. Every body who has been off to see the hull of this vessal, says there aint nothin that comes any way nigh her for beauty and strength—for tho' she has now ben thumpin on the beach for a considerable spell—she is as sound and as strong from her keel to her deck timbers as ever she was—this is owin mainly to the *manner* she was first built—for you know—and if you don't know, I tell you, that she was bilt jest at the close of the last war, and all the timbers in her was carefully taken from every State of the Union—and she was bilt by the nation—evry State sendin a carpenter to see that every part on her was well put together—and evry carpenter too brought timber from his own State to put into her—live oak—locust—pitch pine—cedar and all kinds used in ship buildin—and a completer job never was lanched into the water. So long as she belong'd to the nation all went on well enuf—she could do a coastin trade and a foreign trade—she has ben round Capes and Pints of all names and natur—"Cape Horn," "Cape of Good Hope," "Cape Hatrass," Pint "Look out," "Pint Judith," and "Pint no Pint:"—and every body at home and abroad that know'd any thing about sich kind of craft, has been hearn to say there warn't sich a vessel in all creation. Well, it turned out in evil day, that "The Government" haul'd down the national flag, and said warn't accordin to the constitution to own sich a vessel, and that States only should own and sail 'em. No sooner said than done, all the States turned to and built *in a hurry* a hull batch of vessels pretty much after the fassion of Mr. Jefferson's gun-boats—but "old Penselvany," a knowin old critter, and well knowing what the "Two Pollies" was composed on, struck in and brought and hoisted her flag on the "Two Pollies." She knew as things was goin, if all hands went on shore, the "Two Pollies" would stand the best chance of gettin off with least damage—& as things now stand, I don't see but she was about right—for the "Two Pollies" is as sound now as ever she was, and only wants *liftin* over the sand bank behind her and once afloat will be as good as ever she was.

The business now is—how shall she be *lifted off?* On this pint there is a good many opinions. Some say she ought to wait and take the chances for high tides and low trade and go off with all the rest—and that if Congress makes any appropriation it ought to be shifted round among all the vessels now ashore—but this is pritty much like the condition I once tell'd on about the waggons in the mud. Now my notion is, we had best try an "experiment" with one—git her off if we can—and then with her aid, try to git the rest off—for there aint power in all creation to lift 'em *all off together*.—I have a great liking I must say for the "Two Pollies." I know what she is built on—for tho' she has changed flag, she ain't changed owners, and her keel and knees and plank and floortimbers—they are all the same—and she is worth savin for the good she has done and can do yet. And this is my plan—Congress owns a considerable pile of *empty hogsheads* layin round at the Navy Yard, at Brooklyn—All I want is to have *the use* of a few on 'em for a spell—it won't cost the country a dollar—for them empty casks aint worth nothing till a pinch or a war or some such kind of thing comes—and I promise to return them all afore they are wanted for other work.

Some on you may say that *empty casks* sound too much like *credit*—and wont let 'em be used unless they are fill'd with stones or iron or gold or sand or silver or water, or something that sounds *solid or metallic*—but all I've got to say about it is—that kind of work wont *lift* any thing off shore—give me the use of the *empty casks* to do the *liftin* and call it *credit* or what you will I'll promise to git the "Two Pollies" afloat with 'em—and then you may fill 'em as you please—but if you want to push the "Two Pollies" deeper in the sand you can do so by rolling on top on her your casks fill'd with heavy metal, of iron or gold or stones or silver, for in any *liftin work* one is about as bad as tother, and the heaviest is the worst.

I don't mean "to commit" myself and say that I go for empty casks before full ones for *all* kind of work—that ain't my notion at all—but I say when a vessel is on shore and you want to *lift* her off, *empty casks* are better than full ones—and when you git her off, then turn to and fill up your empty casks for ballast, and keep 'em so.

If your honorable body, then, will jest pass a resolution and say, "that the owners of the 'Two Pollies' shall have *the use* of a few empty casks mark'd 'U. S.,' on condition that the same be used to git said vessel off shore—and on condition too that the said 'Two Pollies' will engage to drag off shore all the other craft, *(worth savin,)* and returnin said empty casks uninjured"—then I can only say you will see along shore about as brisk a time as you ever see'd in your born days.

If any on you are afraid "to take the responsibility," you can turn the hull scrape on't on to me. The time is come when you must do something, and the plan I propose is sound and won't cost nothin—not half as much at any rate as it will to pay your expenses in making long speeches about it.

Every thing is aground. The "Two Pollies"—The Treasury"—and "*the industry of the country*"—the hull scrape is in the mud—jest where I expected we should be and I tell'd you three years ago—but I dont want to say nothing more about it. Some folks I know want me to sharpen my axe and slap round and chop up folks—but that aint my notion. I am willin to say you all mean for the best—but you make a great mistake, and the best of folks make mistakes, sometimes the only crence betwixt good folks and bad folks is—that good folks as soon as they see their mistake turn to and mend it—whilst bad folks try to brow beat, and threaten and bully and git out of it that way—bu this won't do.

The upshot of the matter is—the Country is in trouble—*industry* which is its *stand by*, sat a *stand still*—and no one but office holders git any thing to live by and they are paid out of the earnins of the people—every thing depends on *the industry of the people*—if you check or obstruct *that*—every t ing must go to smash, and in a little time *the people* won't be able to pay your expenses in goin to Washington to make laws for 'em. You will bring their noses to the grind stones—and as I'm one on 'em my nose I spose will be ground too, but I hope you'll let me grind my axe also on the same stone, and if I can only keep one as sharp as tother, I won't have the wors on't now I tell you.

Your fellow citizen,
J. DOWNING, Major.
Downingville Militia, 2d Brigade.

To the Editor of the Baltimore Chonicle:

I am not certain that the public mind has yet become so enlightened as to reject the monstrous proposition submitted by the President as a remedy for the evils under which the community is suffering, from the arbitrary, unjust and unconstitutional acts of the late administration. Presuming, therefore, that the loco foco notions of Mr. Van Buren may be reduced to the shape of laws, let us see what will be the direct effect upon the public at large.

He proposes that Government shall deal in specie only.

That certain officers of Government shall become sub-treasurers or depositories of the public funds:.

That all officers or agents of Government shall be paid in specie.

Under such an arrangement it is not to be presumed that the State banks will, or can, resume specie payments, because the constant demand for that currency by government will inevitably continue it at a premium: the circulation, therefore, of the precious metals, must necessarily be reduced from ordinary times—and the process of its circulat on would be this:

Those indebted to government in any shape, will have to provide gold and silver at a premium, to discharge their debts. From those persons the coin passes into the possession of collectors, postmasters, &c. and is paid out by them to the various officers of government. It is not to be supposed that these officers will disburse the specie in payment of Individual claims in their ordinary transactions, whilst they can dispose of it at ten or twelve per cent advance. Hence it will pass from them into the hands of the brokers, from whom it will be again purchased by the debtors of government, and pass into the hands of the collectors, postmasters, &c. This will be the rotine of its circulation: From the brokers to the merchants, from the merchants to the collectors, from the collectors to other officers to the brokers, and thus the wheel will continue to turn.

Now let me ask the farmer, the mechanic the laboring man, in fact *any* man, other than an officer of government, how his own or his country's interest are to be advanced, or how existing evils are to be remedied by this policy? It is desirable that officers of government shall receive payment for their services in a currency which is denied to common people? that "shin-plasters" and irredeemable Bank paper shall be considered good in discharge of the mechanic's labour, or in payment for the farmer's produce, whilst for government officers gold and silver are provided?

But there is another view of the subject which may not be uninteresting. If the merchant be compelled to purchase specie to discharge his bonds to government, it is not rational to suppose, that he will add his additional expense to the