MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

From the Annapolis Republican.

A message was adopted on Thursday last by nearly an unanimous vote, in the House of Delegates, proposing to close the present session of the General Assembly on Friday next, the 20th inst. The message was promptly responded to by the Senate, with the same unanimity; and the session in all probability will close on that day.

The House of Delegates, after passing an act in relation to the Eastern Shore Rail Road Company, and sending it to the Senate, sent a message to that body requesting them to return it for further consideration. It was returned accordingly, and yesterday the House agreed to a compromise measure which we understand will be satisfactory to all parties in this vexed question—the State agreeing to indemnify.

The House of Delegates, on Monday last, passed a bill to take the sense of the voters of this State at next October election as to the propriety of calling a Convention to frame a new Constitution. The vote on passing the bill stood—ayes 41, nays 25. In the course of the debate upon this bill, Mr. Martin, of Talbot, alluded to the revolutionary attempts of the memorable 19 with keen rebuke. Mr. Spence, of Worcester, advocated a representation according to population!

On Thursday, a bill passed the House with the imposing title of "an act to reduce the expenses of government." The bill, as reported by the committee, proposed a reduction of from $1400 to $2000, by abolishing various small offices, principally on the Eastern Shore. This called up Mr. Winder, who made an admirable speech upon the occasion. The idea of carrying out "reform and retrenchment" at that gait was very neatly and appropriately characterized. Dr. Humphreys also took the floor against these demonstrations upon the Eastern Shore especially. The effect of this was to induce a number of amendments to be offered in the course of which several very valuable, not to say indispensable officers, were eventually included in the list of those proposed to be abolished—and that too without making any provision whatever for the performance in future, of the duties they have heretofore been required to perform. Mr. Gaither made a very earnest and serious appeal at thus sporting with the duties of government. The people required public officers to execute public duties. Mr. Bowie proposed as a substitute for the bill a general reduction of the salaries of all officers appointed under the laws of this State, of twenty-five per cent, and including members and officers of this legislature, and maintained the proposition in a speech of some length, but it was voted down. A proposition to amend the bill by abolishing the whole of the officers of the State, or something to that effect, was also rejected. Finally the bill passed, including the following offices to be abolished:—The Judge of the Land Office for the Eastern Shore, the Examiners General of the Eastern and Western Shores, the Geologist & Topographical Engineer, the associate Judges of the Baltimore City Court, and two Lottery Commissioners.

A HARD MONEY CURRENCY.

Who can wonder that all who *are* in office and the thousands who support the administration under the hope of getting into office, should be crying out for a hard money currency. While every farmer and mechanic gets paper money for his produce and his labour, these pampered office holders who live on Uncle Sam, as vermin in the Lion's mane; get their pay in *hard Spanish silver dollars.* A postmaster or collector, for example, whose salary is $1000, retains it out of the *specie* which he exacts from the people for postage, and for duties on goods, and what does he do with his *specie* when he gets it? Does he pay it for his flour—his shoes—his hat, or his beef, or his coat, or his poultry? No! No!—not a cent of it. He takes his $1000, sells it to a broker, gets $1100 in Bank notes, and *these* he pays to the very people from whom he exacted the specie in exchange for their produce and their labour.

Hence the war that has been carried on against the banks, by all, from a corrupt and unfeeling President down to the lowest minion indebted to him for his bread. They will never suffer the banks to recover, while suspension adds 10 per cent. to their salary.

This ten per cent. added to their salary just about pays the contribution levied upon every office-holder, and every clerk in the Union, to make up the *corruption fund.*

Suppose Van Buren to lose the support derived directly from office-holders and their connections: and thus stripped of his patronage he could be brought to the poll and take a fair start with old Tip—who does not know that he would be polled in the first hat? But with all his interested backers, thank heaven he is destined to be beaten with a most subservient majority in both houses of Congress. For the last four years, the people see that the country has been brought from a high state of prosperity (boasted of by General Jackson when he went out) down to the verge of universal ruin; every one agrees that things cannot be worse, and from one end of the country to the other, from Maine to Mississippi, from the seaboard to the mountains, the cry becomes louder and louder; no change can worse us—Let us have a change of Rulers. Let us try old Tippecanoe, the log cabin and hard cider candidate. He who has served us in the cabinet and in the field, and as Col. Johnson says never suffered a defeat.—The sign is on the wall—old Tip walks from the log cabin into the marble palace on the fourth of March next, knowing and feeling for the wants of the people.

MURDER WILL OUT.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 1st inst. says: It has not been forgotten by our readers that about a month ago we reported a case of murder committed by one Fernando Diez.—The horrible circumstance was yesterday more fully brought to light. The body of the unfortunate woman has been discovered, and the evidence against the miserable murderer is established beyond question.

In a small back building in Magazine near Bartholemew street, the body of a female has been discovered, mutilated in a most shocking manner. It was in this house that Diez was arrested, and it appears that the heartless wretch, after murdering his wife in Barrack street, cut the body to pieces, hired this house in Magazine street, and in the night carried the corpse to his new residence, where he buried it beneath the floor.

The body, when discovered, presented a most shocking spectacle. The legs had been cut off at the hips, and but little mortification had taken place. It may have been that the water in which the body lay prevented the natural course of decomposition, for it was not buried but carelessly concealed beneath the floor, and the offensive smell which arose and offended the neighborhood, led to the discovery. Diez is still in prison, confined for examination.

TWENTY SIXTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

MARCH 12, 1840.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

NEW JERSEY QUESTION.

This question, on Mr. Bott's motion to print, came up again this morning, and gave rise to a confused and personal debate upon questions of veracity between the committee of elections.—Mr. Medill has stated some things which Mr. Jenifer and others says are not true. The whole committee are involved. The country will be little interested in the discussion, and the debate is interesting to no one; as yet, but the parties concerned.

At one o'clock, Mr. Jones called for the orders of the day.

The Speaker's table having yesterday been cleared of bills, with one exception, the table was to-day cleared of Executive communications.

Mr. Bell's bill in relation to tha freedom of elections and to prevent Executive interference, was called up and was the subject properly in order before the *House.*

Mr. Bell said that he would not ask action upon his bill at the present time, but would let it pass by informally for the purpose of allowing the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means an opportunity to call up the Treasury Note bill.

After the reference of a bill to the committee on the Judiciary proposing the abolition of the existing naturalization laws, and the manking of new ones, allowing the foreigner the privileges of the citizen after a two years' residence in the country, the House resolved itself into committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

The SPEAKER called Mr. Dawson, of Geo., to the Chair.

TREASURY NOTES.

Mr. Jones called up the bill for the issue of Treasury Notes to the amount of five millions of dollars. Mr. J. entered into a long argument showing the condition of the Treasury and the necessity of issuing the Treasury Notes called for by the Government. If the Government realized all the debts due during the year, and the receipts were as large as the Secretary of the Treasury had estimated, there would be a balance in the in the Treasury at the end of the year, amounting to more than one million of dollars. Mr. Jones said, however, that the expenditures of the Government were greater during the first half of the year than they were the last half, while the receipts would be more during the last part than during the first.

Statistics were read giving a schedule of the debts and dues of the Government for the existing year. From these statements Mr. Jones thought it would be obvious that the notes must be issued. The credit of the Government demanded it, and he believed every man had this object at heart.

Mr. Jones proceeded to show that in his opinion the issue of Treasury Notes was much better than obtaining a loan for the Government. He considered a loan a debt, and Treasury Notes not a debt and a National Debt a National curse instead of a National blessing. Leaving this subject, Mr. J. proceeded to a general defence of the Administration, and particularly of the President of the U. S. and the Secretary of the Treasury.

After he had finished, Mr. Curtis of N. Y. put a question to the Committee of Ways and Means, controverting some of his positions, and calculated to point out some of his errors.

Mr. Jones did not answer satisfactorily.

Mr Cushing of Mass. followed and expressed a willingness to give the Government all that was required for Government purposes. *He* would do this, and he would hold the Government responsible for the estimates of its officers.

Mr. Cushing after examining the report, made an argument proving that Treasury Notes were to be looked upon as bills of credit, and as a loan. They were so considered by him at the last session, and in the Convention, the debates before which had just been published.

Correspondence of the Balt. Patriot.

WASHINGTON, March 16 1840.

NEW JERSEY PRETENDERS.

After the journal was read, the Speaker announced that Messrs. Dickerson, Kille, Cooper, and Ryall, members from New Jersey, were in attendance, and asked to be sworn.

Mr. Jenifer then sent to the Chair a resolution which was read for the information of the House. It proposed to postpone the execution of the order of the House to swear in Mr. Dickenson and his associates until the second Monday in April, to give time to the other claimants to present their testimony to the House.

The Chair decided this to be out of order.

Mr. Proffit asked if members were not required to present their credentials previous to being sworn in.

The Speaker said the order of the House was to administer the oaths.

Mr. *Dickerson* and his friends were then sworn and took their seats.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

Mr. Cushing, of Massachusetts, asked to put a question to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, upon a subject deeply interesting to the country, and somewhat touching himself personally.

Leave being granted, Mr. Cushing reminded the House that he had some time ago presented resolutions calling upon the Executive for information regarding our foreign relations with China and that his colleague (*Mr.* Lawrence) had presented memorials from citizens of Massachusetts, asking the co-operation of our Government with that of Great Britain in preserving our commercial interest at Canton. The memorial and resolutions were referred to the Committee on foreign Affairs. The action of Congress, Mr. Cushing said, was noticed in a ministerial print in England, in such a way as to evince great misconception of the spirit and purport of the resolutions and memorial; in proof of which he read an extract, wherein the British nation was congratulated upon the implied disposition of the American Congress to co-operate with it in the course pursued by Great Britain towards China.

Mr. Cushing said the purport of his resolutions, at least, must have been mistaken by England, if it was supposed they had in view any such co-operation. On the contrary, he denounced and protested against the policy of England towards China, as not only outraging the laws of nations but every principle of humanity and justice.—He wished now to lean from the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs whether the intentions of the Executive on this point were such as to authorize a belief that the course pursued by Great Britain towards China was to be co-operated with our Government.

Mr. Pickens (chairman of the committee) replied that he could not speak by authority of what the Executive views and intentions on this subject were; but he was induced to believe that they were far from being such as to warrent the statement in the English paper. The object of our Government had been, and is, strictly to put our relations with China on a footing with those of other nations, and not to act with England in forcing the opium trade upon China.

After a few more remarks from Mr Cushing upon the nefarious nature of the course pursued by Great Britain towards China, the subject was dropped.

AN APPLE OF GOLD.—The unqualified abuse that is daily heaped upon the "PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE," by a party press that owes its existence only to the pamperings of a corrupt and wicked government, cannot but be viewed with scorn and abhorrence. Abuse, it is true, is the only weapon that is left to the enemies of Gen. Harrison, but it is pointless and imbecile. The following noble and eloquent sentiments expressed by the "PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE" is an '*apple of gold*'" and contains more pure and unadulterated patriotism, than a volume of the sayings of Martin Van Buren. They occur at the close of a communication addressed to the Editor of the Cincinnati Inquisitor, in September, 1822.

"I believe that upon the preservation of the Union of the States depends the existence of our civil and religious liberties, and that the cement which binds it together is not a parcel of words written upon paper or parchment but the botherly love and regard which the citizens of the several States possess for each other. Destroy this, and the beautiful fabric which was reared & embellished by our ancestors crumbles into ruins.—From its disjointed parts no temple of liberty will again be reared. Discord and wars will succeed to peace and harmony—barbarism will again overspread the land, or, what is scarcely better, some kindly tyrant will promulgate the decrees of his will, from the seat where a Washington and a Jefferson dispensed the blessings of a free and equal Government. I believe it, therefore, to be the duty of a Representative to conciliate, by every possible means, the members of our great political family, and always to bear in mind that *as the Union was effected only by a spirit of mutual concession and forbearance, so only can it be preserved.*

"WM. H. HARRISON."

APALACHICOLA, March 7. 2840.

MELANCHOLY STEAMBOAT DISASTER.

On Thursday morning last, the boilers of the steamer COMMERCE exploded, destroying the two engineers, a passenger, Mr. John Burton of this city, three deck hands, and severely wounding several others. The Commerce left this city about 9 o'clock with the U. S. Mail and passengers for Chattahoochie. About 30 miles from the city, opposite the Three Brothers, she stopped her engine for the purpose of setting several passengers ashore. Almost immediately upon stopping the engine, one of her boilers exploded.—Mr. Burton one of the passengers, it appears was in the act of passing the engine for the purpose of being set ashore, as the explosion took place. He was severely injured and died in about three hours. He was a valuable citizen, and leaves many friends to lament his loss. His family we believe are at this time in Camden County, Ga. The principle engineer was thrown into the water, and was heard to call for assistance, but although the most active steps were taken by the captain of the boat he sunk before he could be reached, and his body has not yet been found. The second engineer was thrown from his position at the engine into the cabin, and was quite dead when found. The boiler seemed to have burst forward. The passengers in the after cabin sustained but little injury. Those in the principal cabin forward, suffered severely. Judge Woodward of Marianna, who was on his return home was severely bruised, The Rev. Mr. M'Elvy slightly.

EXPLOSION.—Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, the powder in the drying house attached to Mr. James Beatty's powder mill, seven miles from this city, on the Falls road, exploded.—There about 60 kegs of powder in the house at the time, and explosion was so violent that the house, which was built of stone, was levelled with the ground, the stones thrown in every direction, fences demolished, all the plastering shaken from the walls of a newly finished house in the neighborhood, and the glass shattered from the windows of a house a quarter of a mile distant. The concussion was distinctly felt in this city. Had it not been for the strong southerly wind, there is a probability that the graining house, in which there was about a ton of powder, would also have been blown up. Fortunately no lives were lost. The superintendant had not left the drying house more than fifteen minutes before the occurrence took place, and one of the workmen was on his way to the spot at the instant of the explosion.—He was knocked down but received no injury.—The accident it is said, occurred in consequence of the powder being dried by the old and dangerous plan of heating the room by a stove, instead of steam, according to the modern practice.—Baltimore Sun.

SINGULAR ROBBERY.—The New Orleans Bee states that a most atrocious robbery was committed on board the steamboat Geo. Washington, near Vicksburg, a few nights since, upon the person of a young Englishman who was a passenger, and going to New Orleans. About midnight, several ruffians entered his state room and tied his arms and legs in such a manner as to leave him no power of resistance, and threatening instantaneous death if he uttered a word, rifled him of his pocket books containing about $800 and papers of importance, among which were letters of credit from the house of Wilds Pickergill & Co., Liverpool. The robbers, after having taken every thing they thought valuable, left him bound as above mentioned, in which condition he was found next morning by the steward of the boat.

CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE.

"The union of the Whigs—for the sake of the Union."

CAMBRIDGE—MD.

SATURDAY MORNING, March 21st, 1840.

FOR PRESIDENT.
WILLIAM H. HARRISON,
OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT,
JOHN TYLER,
OF VIRGINIA.

We are gratified to learn that arrangements have been effected between the Postmaster General and the Baltimore and Philadelphia Rail Road for the transportation of the mail in future between the two cities.

We would respectfully call the attention of our readers to the able letter of David Hoffman Esq., to be found on the first page, accepting the nomination of elector for President and Vice President, for the State at large.

The legislature of our State was to have adjourned yesterday. It would have been much better for the state if they had adjourned two months ago. All the efforts of the lower house have contributed to injure the credit of the State abroad, and retard her progress to that high station she is destined to occupy. We hope never again to see such a set of gabbling geese congregated at the capitol.

As far as we have heard the municipal elections in New York are highly favorable to the Whigs. They have in every instance increased their strength, while the Loco Focos have fallen off in a proportionate degree. "The work goes bravely on." Van Buren ism is dead in New York, Harrisonism is sweeping every thing before it, and the only fear we have is that the Loco Focos will not have a sufficient number left to make an interesting resistance.

A SIGN.—At an election held in this town on Saturday last for a town Commissioner, the *Whig* candidate received 37 votes and the Loco Foco candidate 3. There are undoubtedly more than *three* Loco Focos living amongst us, and the only way we can account for the meagre vote of their candidate is, that the state of our country has brought them to their reflection, and they have determined to pause and reconnoitre before they advance farther. We do not claim this majority, but we do insist that it argues a fatal apathy on the part of the Loco Focos. As they could not consistently vote for the Whig candidate & thus do what was right and proper, they would not vote for the Loco Foco candidate and do wrong.—And what may seem singular to some, the three persons that voted for the Loco Foco candidate are *office holders!* Next fall we intend to bury Loco Focoism "with its face downwards, and write upon its back NO RESURRECTION."

THE PROSPECT.—We would not knowingly, under any circumstances, and or the accomplishment of any purposes, inspire our friends with false hopes of success. We have too frequently felt the pangs of disappointment, and two well do we know their injurious effect, to wish to inflict a like pain upon our friends. From our constitutional temperament, we are disposed to look upon the dark side of human affairs, and often when all others are exulting in the fine prospect of the realization of their hopes, we still doubt, and are unwilling to believe until success is firmly secured in our grasp.

We know that our people are looking to the election of General Harrison as the only means of freeing our country from the thraldom of despotism—we know that to this single point all eyes are turned with intense anxiety and solicitude, and that upon the success or disappointment of their hopes hangs the destiny, for weal or for woe, of our beloved country; and we feel that we should be guilty of a double crime, if our efforts were used to raise their hopes to the highest pitch, to be crushed and prostrated beneath the chilling blasts of disappointment. But we can aver it as our honest and firm set opinion that General Harrison will be the next President of the United States. To believe otherwise would be discarding the light of reason and probability. Nor has this opinion been formed hastily. We have closely watched the "signs of the times"—we have compared the opinions of the great men of our country, and with these lights for our guide we could arrive at no other conclusion. The enthusiasm felt for Harrison is not the fiery zeal of party, it springs from the fulness of gratitude for the important civil and military services he has rendered his country, his unaffected benevolence pure patriotism and incorruptible integrity.—The people are unwilling to withhold their tribute of respect for the character and talents of the man who protected their wives and children from the scalping knife and tomahawk They know him well, and have always found in him a safe and able depository of the trust reposed in him by his government. The same hand which penned the luminous state paper in time of peace, knew well how to wield the sword of war, in defending a frontier, which but for him, would, in all probability, have been successfully invaded by the merciless savage, and drenched in the blood of helpless wives and mothers. The same voice which harmonized in the mildest tones the conflicting interests of the wide and extensive territory, to the government of which he was called by the illustrious Jefferson, knew well how to sound the battle-cry which free and daring spirits love to hear. How can it be otherwise than these people, whose homes he secured, should manifest such enthusiasm for General Harrison. They are honest, they are intelligent and they are grateful. They have seen our present chief Magistrate trampling our sacred Constitution under foot, and they have *felt* the consequences of the usurpation. And can the spirit that animates them for the recovery of our almost lost country be withstood? No. The administration are doomed. They had as well attempt to stay the rushings of Niagara's waters, or stop the progress of the devastating avalanche, as to curb the revolutionary spirit that is fast spreading over our country!

In tracing the history of Martin Van Buren from its earliest period to the present time, we can discover no single act of his life which merits the confidence and admiration of the American people. We have at first seen him a *federalist* of the deepest dye, and afterwards a thorough going democrat. We have seen him using his exertions to place the *free white citizen on a par with negroes* by voting to extend to free negroes the right of suffrage. We have seen him at one time denouncing the last war as impolitic, odious and unconstitutional, and at another its warmest advocate. We have seen him alternately as a friend and opponent of the Tariff. We have seen him instructing our minister to the court of St. James to treat our right to transport "our own produce, in our own vessels to the West Indies, (which George Washington had considered as a "*privilege*" secured by every principle of governmental reciprocity) as a "boon" to be granted us at the *will* of an opposing parliament and ministry of Great Britain. We have seen him leaguing with a dark and unprincipled cabal, for the accomplishment of selfish purposes. We have seen him clinging with a desperate tenacity to the skirts of General Jackson—whose name like his own will go down to posterity as a public scourge—and elevating himself to power on the ruins of his country's prosperity. We have seen him, in his message to congress, stigmatizing the people of his native State as "Bank hirelings." We have seen him deriding the miseries of his countrymen, whose welfare and happiness he is bound to promote, and to their appeals for redress returning the haughty answer that "too much is expected by the people from the government." We have seen him waging an uncompromising warfare against the credit system, which has resulted in the prostration of business and enterprize, and thrown hundreds upon the cold charity of the world for subsistence. And as if to crown his wickedness with an act that will never be forgotten, he wishes to reduce the prices of labor to the specie value,—i. e. *one third* of their *present* value—and thus degrade, and sink to the level of *bondsmen,* the POOR WHITE CITIZENS of the United States.

An industrious mechanic now receives from *one* to *two* dollars per day. Upon this sum he can maintain his family free from want. Reduce his wages, (as the Van Buren party wish to do) to *one third* of this sum, and what will be the consequences to the labouring man? Will he not be obliged to suffer want and privation? Will he not be compelled to seek the alms house as a refuge from the keen pangs of hunger, and the inclemency of the weather? Labouring men, you who earn a livelihood by the sweat of your brow, look to your interests, and ponder upon these things. The crisis is momentous. It calls upon every man to pause and reflect. It appeals to the patriotism of every citizen, of whatever degree, to resist this monstrous and ruinous policy. Shall we continue to be free? or shall we blindly submit ourselves to the guidance of the executive? Shall we strike one more blow for constitutional liberty? or shall we surrender ourselves a prey to the spoilers. It is with the people to answer these questions.

NEW JERSEY MEMBERS.—We had always thought the Loco Foco members of Congress were prepared to do almost any thing to sustain the waning fortunes of their party, but we never imagined that party fanaticism and infatuation could drive men into such depravity as they have evidenced in deciding that the *non commissioned* members from New Jersey were entitled to their seats as Representatives of the State of New Jersey. It is a gross and palpable violation of the constitution of the United States, and the laws of the State of New Jersey, and stands without a parallel in the annals of legislation. The rights of a sovereign State have been violated—her laws nullified, and the expressed will of a majority of her *lawful* citizens set at defiance. While the five commissioned claimants were at home, by leave of the committee, taking testimony to substantiate their claims, a Loco Foco House of Representatives compelled the Committee to report forthwith which of the two sets of claimants had the majority of all the "*lawful*" votes polled. They were of course obliged to report all the votes as *lawful,* because they had no evidence before them to establish the frauds alledged by the Whig claimants, and, for which purpose, they had allowed them until the 2nd Monday in April to collect testimony. Upon their report the house acted, and the result has shocked every one who feels an interest in the perpetuity of our free institutions.

From whom does Congress derive its powers?—Are they not delegated in trust by the several states, and by whom they are always resumable? Congress has of itself no rights. They are delegated by the States to be exercised for the good of the whole.—By what right, then, can they nullify the laws of N. Jersey, and render the mandate of the agent paramount to the fiat of the master? By none, we contend. They have assumed the right, and that assumption is tantamount to an usurpation. If there was ever cause for a sovereign State to rise in her majesty and assert her rights, New Jersey has that cause. Her most sacred rights have been trampled to the dust—her constitution and laws have been disregarded by an insolent horde of executive hirelings, and the crisis requires her to check their inroads upon the reserved rights of the States, not only for her own, but for the benefit of the others. We sooner or later must teach an haughty and domineering executive its duty, or the means will be wrested from the people. The battle for constitutional liberty will have to be fought, and we wish it to take place in our day. Posterity will not be responsible, and should not suffer the consequences of our neglect. We regret we have not space enough to take such an extended notice of this matter as its importance demands. In our next we shall publish the report of the minority, and all can read and judge for themselves.

While some young men were firing a salute at Castine, on the 22d of February, one of the cannon burst, and Mr. Dyer, pilot of the revenue boat Veto, had both of his legs broken, and was otherwise horribly mangled. It was not supposed he could survive. Several other persons were slightly injured, and the gun and carriage were blown to pieces. Mr. Dyer was in command of the Veto at the time she saved so many lives from the steamer Royal Tar.—[N. Y. American.