fice, in view of their bearing upon the public revenue; and I shall be relieved from the suspicion of self-interest, and I hope excused for the apparent egotism necessarily incident to the consideration of this subject by me.

I will, therefore, gentlemen, without reserve, invite your consideration of two propositions, which will embrace all I desire to say upon this important subject. The first is, that the collection of the public revenue, and consequently the credit of the State, depends upon the efficiency of the Executive; and the second is, that the law of the last session, now under consideration, reducing the executive compensation, is not calculated to secure such efficiency. In reference to the first of those propositions, I need only say, that experience has demonstrated the inutility of adequate revenue laws, unenforced by executive energy and firmness, and that the restored credit of the State, and her ability to resume the payment of her liabilities, are not more attributable to the responsibilities assumed by the Executive in recommending, and by the Legislature of 1844 and 1845, in establishing the present revenue system, than to the constant attention and unceasing efforts of the executive to enforce the execution and general observance of the laws so recommended and passed. But, gentlemen, I will not trespass on your patience with an argument to sustain a position, the truth of which you all know as well as I do. You know, that if the Executive Department of the government is placed in efficient hands, the non-payment of the public dues in some portions of the State will certainly follow; and you know, that the people of every portion of the State, will be found unwilling to submit to the onerous taxation now cheerfully borne by most of them, when they find the great object of that taxation unanswered, and their beloved State thrown back from the elevated position she now occupies, into the position of helpless insolvency, from which she has but now been extricated.

In reference to the second proposition a difference of opinion may be entertained; but I cannot doubt, that proper reflection will lead you to the almost unanimous affirmance of its truth. Under the old Constitution, a Governor and five members of the executive council, constituted the State Executive, who were elected annually by the Legislature. The salary of the Governor was $2,666 66, and of each member of the council $500, which with the salary of the clerk to the council, and that of the steward to the Governor, made the cost of the Executive department, under the old constitution, $6,916. The Governor and members of the council were not required to reside at the seat of government, and were permitted to pursue their various business avocations, which were scarcely interferred with by the discharge of their executive duties, consisting almost exclusively in the exercise of the appointing power. Under the amended constitution, the Governor is elected by the people for the term of three years, and is required to appoint annually, with the consent of the Senate, a Secretary of State, who are both required to reside at the seat of government.

The salary of the Governor, since the amended constitution went into effect, has been $4,200, and that of the Secretary of State $2,000; making the cost of this department, under the amended constitution $6,200. By the law of the last session,, the salary of the Governor, after the 1st of January 1848, is reduced to $2,000, and that of the Secretary of State, after the 1st of January, 1847, to $1,000, and the question which I submit for your consideration and decision is whether efficient Executive officers can be procured for those salaries?

No one, who has not thoroughly examined the present revenue system of the State, can appreciate the labor which is now imposed upon the State Executive. If you will reflect that the annual revenue from an hundred different sources now amounts to about one million of dollars, and that the operation of the whole of this complicated system of taxation is placed, by law, under the supervision of the Executive, you will readily conclude, that the individual who will now faithfully discharge the duties attached to this office, will have no leisure for other pursuits, and that the successful discharge of those duties will now require the entire time of a man of energy, firmness and established business habits. If you reflect that the salary by this law attached to the office, will entail pecuniary loss upon the person who shall hereafter be elected by the people, as the Chief Executive officer, it is manifest that it excludes from competition for the office all those who are successfully engaged in any business or profession, and will confine it for the future, to men of wealth and leisure. But apart from this view of the subject, if we consider the practical effect of this retrenchment, upon the individual citizen, and find that he whose property is assessed at ten thousand dollars, will only save, by this reduction in the salary of his Governor and Secretary of State, the enormous sum of fifteen cents, you cannot (if you throw out of view the probable consequent incompetency of the officer) believe that the people of Maryland can be brought for such a consideration to approve a law, by which they will be derived the privilege of selecting any other than a man of wealth, as their Chief Executive Officer, without entailing upon the man of their choice certain pecuniary embarrassment. No, gentlemen, I am persuaded that such is not the genius or disposition of the people of Maryland: they have pride in their State and their government, and will never approve of legislation tending to cast degradation upon either.

In discharge of the duty imposed on me by the acts of 1827, chapter 140, and 1839, chapter 28, the vouchers will show that there has been expended within the past year, for the education of the indigent blind, the sum of $661 61; and for the education of the indigent deaf and dumb, the sum of $1,292 52.

By the act of 1845, chapter 97, it was made my duty to purchase a lot of ground in the city of Baltimore, and to contract for the building of a Tobacco Warehouse, capable of containing six thousand hogsheads. I have purchased a lot, and made a contract for the building which is now being erected; and I will transmit for your information and inspection, the deed, contract, &c., which I hope will meet your approbation.

I will also send for your information copies of the letters addressed by me (under resolution 18, of the last legislature) to the Governors of Pennsylvania and Delaware, upon the subject of the North-eastern boundary between the State of Maryland and those States, and the letter upon that subject received in reply from the Governor of Delaware. No communication upon the subject has been received from the Governor of Pennsylvania.

The loss which the State has sustained by the death of her late Chancellor, THEODORICK BLAND, makes it my duty to refer to the court over which he presided, for the purpose of suggesting the legislation necessary to its maintenance.

The Great Seal of the State was placed in his custody, as the Chancellor of Maryland, on the 16th day of August, 1824, and from that period to the day of his death, the 16th of November last, he discharged the arduous and multifarious duties of that high station, with honesty, firmness and ability.

I have committed the custody of the Great Seal to JOHN JOHNSON, Esq., a gentleman whose high integrity of character, and admitted learning in this department of the law, eminently qualify him to discharge the arduous duties of Chancellor with honor to himself and advantage to the public. The ability of this gentleman to hold permanently this most important judicial appointment, must depend upon your action. By resolution No. 41 of December session, 1825, it is declared "that the salary of the Chancellor shall be three thousand four hundred dollars, during the continuance of the commission of the present Chancellor, and no longer; and after the expiration of his commission such salary shall be provided for the succeeding Chancellor as the Legislature shall then think proper to fix and establish."

You will therefore perceive, that the fate of the High Court of Chancery of Maryland is now in your hands. If, in the exercise of that enlightened judgment, for which the Legislature of Maryland has ever been distinguished, when questions of such vital importance have been submitted for their decision, you shall establish for this officer a salary commensurable with the laborious duties of the office, or the vast interests involved in his decisions, you will secure to your constituents the blessings of an efficient court, and to yourselves the honor of preserving this important branch of the judiciary. A lawyer qualified to act as Chancellor, clothed with the sole power of deciding within the limits of the whole State, upon all the rights of property which fall under the judicial examination of a Court of Equity, must be a man of learning, probity and firmness—he must possess energy of character and habits of industry; and above all, he he must be a man the natural and acquired inclination of whose mind would be to take a fair, unbiased, straightforward view of every question submitted for his decision.

When you reflect upon the golden harvest which such a a man could reap in the practice of his profession, you must conclude that a liberal salary or an incompetent officer are the necessary alternatives.

Gentlemen, desirous as I am that this court, the only remaining relic of the wisdom of our fathers, should be preserved—fully conscious as I am of the great inconvenience and injury which would be occasioned by its destruction—I should prefer its abolition to its continuance, under circumstances which would convert it from a blessing to a curse upon the people.

Bear in mind, gentlemen, that the great convenience and utility of this tribunal administered by a competent officer, have never been denied by any of those who in by-gone days have advocated its abolition; and then suffer me to inquire—for what mighty purposes are the people to be deprived of the convenience and benefits of this tribunal, placed in the hands of an efficient and competent officer?—To reduce the amount of the expense of the State to the amount of the salary of the Chancellor, either in whole or in part, is the only answer which ever has been, or which can be given to this inquiry, by those who have hitherto advocated the abolition of the court for the reduction of the salary of that officer.

And what would be the grand result of this false economy? If you should establish for the Chancellor now appointed, the same salary which by the resolution of 1825 was given to the late Chancellor, by which his services would be secured, you would impose upon each citizen of the State, for the purpose of sustaining a Court of admitted convenience and advantage to the people of the whole State, the intolerable burden of a tax of the seventh hundredth part of one per cent upon his assessable property!!

Before passing from this subject there is one other consideration of so conclusive and commanding a character that I do not feel myself at liberty to withhold it. By the 36th article of the Constitution, the Chancellor for the time being is made the keeper of the Great Seal, which the same article directs, should be affixed to all laws, commissions, grants and other public testimonials; and by the 57th article of the Constitution, it is directed that all civil commissions and grants shall be signed by the Governor and attested by the Chancellor, with the Seal of the State, annexed. The Great Seal then being confided to the keeping of the Chancellor by the Constitution, the Legislature do not possess the power to make a different disposition of it, except by the alteration of that instrument. It therefore follows that if an inadequate salary should be provided by you for this officer, that the Great Seal would remain vacant for at least twelve months and that for that time no grant or civil commission could issue.

May it not also be apprehended that the laws which shall be passed by you, from which so much public good is anticipated, would be rendered nugatory, as they could not have the Great Seal of the State attached to them, as the Constitution requires.

But when, in addition to these views of the subject, you are reminded that the revenue which is now derived from this court is equal to the expense of its administration; I am sure I shall not appeal without success to your wisdom and patriotism, in asking you to establish for this office such a salary as will secure to the State an honest, firm and able Chancellor.

Gentlemen, I cannot resist the inclination which impels me to advert to the practice, which has prevailed in the Legislature, of delaying its action upon subjects of paramount importance, until the last hours of the session. Every observant statesman will recognize in this practice the prominent cause of that legislation which has resulted so perniciously to the State. If you will take up the Statute Books for the past ten years, and turn to the laws which have oppressed and weighed down the energies of your constituents, you will find that all of them were passed within three days of the adjournment of the session at which they were enacted!

With the assurance of my entire confidence in your wisdom and patriotism, I must invoke for the measures to which I have referred, your early consideration and prompt action.

Permit me, gentlemen, to say that I shall entertain, for the conclusions to which you shall come, the most profound respect; and that you may rely on the cordial co-operation of the Executive, to render efficient the measures which you may devise, to re-establish the public credit and promote the public good.

THOMAS G. PRATT.

THE CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY MORNING, January 9, 1847.

☞Mr. V. B. PALMER is our authorized agent receive supscriptions and advertisements for the "CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE," in the cities of Baltimore Philadelphia, New York and Boston,

The Orphan's Court of Dorchester county will sit on the 11th January.

THE MARKETS—*Baltimore, January 6th.*—The season of receipts is pretty well over, although the weather is quite open and Spring-like. The prices of good to prime Md. reds have ranged from 90 to 96 cents. No white wheats at market. *Corn*—prices have been pretty steady at 56 a 57 cents for Md. white, and 58 a 59 cents for Md. yellow. *Rye*—We quote Md. at 65 a 66 cents, and *Oats* at 30 cents. *Wool*—22 cents for common washed —27 cents for half-blood—33 cents for three quarter to full blood. *Feathers*—some few prime lots have sold at 30 cents—25 a 30 cents according to quantity and quality. *Beeswax*—27 cents—sales dull. *Sugars*—N. O. $7,50 a $8 per hundred. Large cargoes have arrived from New Orleans and demand is not so active. *Flour*—Howard st. choice brands $4,62 1-2 a 4.75.

☞We were a little surprised at the remarks of the last "Democrat" upon the message of Gov. Pratt. That paper charges him with paying "a poor compliment to public opinion." It then goes on to say, "this last feature however was to be looked for. The tree is known by its fruit, and whether this contempt or low estimate of public opinion is the result of prejudice or an established article of the federal creed, it is alike to be condemned." We cannot divine as to what portion of the message that paper regards as paying "a poor compliment to public opinion." Gov. Pratt and every other Whig entertains a high respect for an enlightened and honest public opinion, and nothing to the contrary can be infeired from the message. But if by "public opinion" our neighbor means the clamors of those who when in power were afraid to take the responsibility of imposing taxes to meet the habilities of the State—the cavilling, time serving policy of those who endeavored to ride into power by decrying direct taxes, and shedding crocodile tears over the sufferings of the "dear people"—the mad ravings of those who for years before Gov. Pratt's election had battened upon the treasury, and never discovered the necessity of reform until they were turned out of office—if by these things our neighbor means "public opinion," then we assure him it is a part of the Whig creed to regard all such with sovereign contempt. Honesty, truth, patriotism are the fundamental principles of the Whig creed, and that party can entertain no other sentiment save contempt towards a set of men, who boldly and unscrupulously proclaim that "the means justify the end," and who would elevate themselves to power over the prostrate and bleeding honor of their State.

In what respect Gov. Pratt differs from his party as to the cause of the war with Mexico we cannot understand. Certainly he is plain and emphatic to the point that the war is needless and unnecessary. The Democrats fling at the "federal prints who are but *echoing* the speeches of the federal members of Congress" is disingenuous and unjust, and argues ignorance on his part. He should know that the Whig press took ground against the war and Mr. Polk's message before a word had been said in Congress upon the subject—and he should know also that not a single Whig speech upon the subject has been published.—If he does not know these things he should *learn* before he attempts to enlighten the people. The Whig papers are not mere echoes of Whig Congressmen. They think and speak for themselves, and are free from that slavish sycophancy and blind devotion to party and persons in high places which our opponents but too frequently exhibit.

In reference to the "Democrats" remarks about reform we refer the reader to the concluding portion of Gov. Pratt's message for an answer. We entirely endorse the sentiments of the message in relation to the Governor's salary, and the office of Chancellor, and feel confident every man will acknowledge the force and cogeney of his arguments. There is such a policy (and too often practiced,) of saving at the spile and losing at the bung. And it seems to us that the small sum saved by a reduction of the Governor's salary and the abolition of the Chancery office would poorly compensate us for the evils of an impotent and inefficient administration, and the inconveniences consequent upon the abolition of the office of Chancellor. We may refer to this subject again.

THE WAR QUESTION.—The crowded state of our columns compels us to defer our remarks upon this question till next week.

☞We are gratified to learn there is a probability of the difficulties between Hon. Garret Davis and Judge Bayly being amicably adjusted.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—We invite the attention of the reader to this able State paper, to be found upon our first page. The length of the message precludes us from publishing it entire, and we have therefore abridged those parts which are less interesting to the general reader.

We cannot refrain from congratulating our readers upon the brightening prospects of our beloved State. Under the straight forward and able policy of Gov. Pratt she has gradually emerged from the thick gloom of despair and insolvency, and is about to resume her ancient proud position. The measures recommended by Gov. Pratt and carried out by the Legislature have rescued her from dishonour, and placed her far above the foul contamination of repudiation. Had Gov. Pratt been less bold and manly—had his integrity and stern self-sacrificing spirit been a whit inferior to a Cato's, far different would have been our present condition. When he ascended the Gubernatorial chair the hoarse murmurs of repudiation reached his ears from every quarter —the State was heavily burthened with debt —interest was rapidly accruing—the treasury empty—and several Counties had refused to appoint Collectors of the State tax. Such was the State of affairs in Maryland when Gov. Pratt was inaugurated. His quick perception at once comprehended the difficulties, and he nerved himself for the task. His course was candid, bold and firm. Had he evinced aught of wavering or indecision our doom had forever been sealed, and the honor of our State indelibly sullied by the rank breath of repudiation. Had his ear been open to the syren voice of popularity—had his heart been accessible to fear all would have been lost. He saw the crisis and met it fearlessly. He determined that dishonor should never sully the fair fame of Maryland during his administration. He recommended such measures as he believed the crisis required, and he called upon the Legislature to clothe him with the powers necessary to enforce their execution. The hoarsest clamore assailed him on all sides—he was unsparingly denounced from every quarter. But he kept the even tenor of his way—he marched boldly up to the work of rescuing the State from insolvency, heedless of the abuse and calumny that were heaped upon him. And nobly has he performed his task! The voice of opposition is hushed—repudiation stands rebuked—the almost unanimous voice of the people approve his policy, and admire the Roman greatness of the man.—He deserves the thanks and gratitude of every honest citizen for having rescued the State from the perils that environed her, and placed her again proudly erect upon the platform with her sister States: All honor, we say then, to the name of THOMAS G. PRATT! We admire him as a man—admire him as a Whig, and above all we admire and respect him as the Chief Magistrate of Maryland. A grateful and virtuous people will not soon forget his services—and his name will stand enrolled high on the scroll of fame, a bright and glorious example of untiring industry, indomitable firmness and incorruptible integrity.

Once more we commend the message to the reader. It will amply reward the most attentive perusal. The condition of our State is portrayed in a plain and lucid manner, and some arguments advanced in reference to contemplated changes which are worthy of attention.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE

IN SENATE.

On Monday, Mr. Phelps obtained leave to report a bill confirming the act substituting biennial sessions instead of annual sessions of the Legislature.

Also, obtained leave to report a bill to alter the Constitution, so as to change the mode of qualifying the Governor.

Mr. Sellman offered a series of resolutions, setting forth the provisions of the act of last session, and directing the committee appointed to prepare the confirmatory act to inquire whether the provisions of the act of the last session were fully complied with, &c. These were negatived after a spirited debate, by a tie vote.

The president announced the following standing committees.

On Finance—Messrs. Gaither, Keyser, Sellman, Phelps and Bowie.

Judicial Proceedings—Messrs. Hamilton, McCullough, Blackistone, Carey and Clarke.

Internal Improvements—Messrs. Clarke, Naill, Blocher, George and Whaley.

Invalid Deeds and Defective Proceedings—Messrs. Moores, Roberts, Parran, George and Carter.

Insolvent Laws—Messrs. Matthews, Keyser, Parran, Moores and Blocher.

The Library—Messrs. Phelps, Bowie and Constable.

Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Matthews, Roberts, Sellman, Naill and Carter.

Pensions—Messrs. Roberts, Parran and Phelps.

Corporations—Messrs. Constable, Gaither, Bowie, Clarke and George.

Elections—Messrs. Blackistone, Gaither, McCullough, Phelps and Sellman.

Agriculture—Messrs. Naill, George, Bowie, Constable and Sellman.

Coloured Population—Messrs. Sellman, George, Bowie, Parran and Moores.

Militia—Messrs. Keyser, Hambleton, Sellman, Clarke and George.

Executive Nominations—Messrs. Hambleton, Gaither and Bowie.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The following is a list of the Standing Committees of the House, announced to-day, as appointed by the Speaker:

Elections and Privileges—Messrs. Chew, Smyth, Billingsley, Pennington, Ware, Dirickson and Devilbiss.

Ways and Means—Messrs. Donaldson, Allnutt, Spencer, Swan, Frazier, Baughman and Shellman.

On Claims—Messrs. Frazier, Scott, Kemp, Cole, Patterson of Allegany, McMaster and Bowdle.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Duckett, Murray, Wickes, Done, Hopper, Swan, and Jones of St. Mary's.

On Military Pensions—Messrs. Phoebus, Morris, Hawkins, McComas, Riegle, Bonifant and Clements.

On Internal Improvements—Messrs. Done, Turner of Frederick, Henry, Patterson, of Baltimore city, French, Stephenson, and Patterson of Allegany.

On Education—Messrs. Henry, Stephen, French, Dirickson, Lankford, Jarrett and Steck.

On the Militia—Messrs. Shellman, Hearn, Stephenson, Graham, Davis, Root and Kirk.

On Agriculture—Messrs. Coad, Seth, Doyle Morrison, Holland of Harford, Payne and Grabill.

On Manufactures—Messrs. Smyth, Risteau, Ware, Seth, Leiter, Holland of Worcester and Lankford.

On Inspections—Messrs. Dunkinson, Jamar, Turner of Calvert, Root, Martin, Riegle and Patterson of Baltimore city.

On Lotteries—Messrs. Ege, Doyle, Cox, Wicks, Dunkinson, Wilson and Downey.

On Expiring Laws—Messrs. Hopper, Hearn Traverse, Jones, of Somerset, Orr, Bowdle and Orrick.

On State Library—Messrs. Hayden, Kemp, Baughman, Stephen, Wilson, Coad and Murray.

On Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Scott, Jenifer, Cox, Morrison, Hambleton, McMaster and Chew.

On Printing—Messrs. Holland, of Montgomery, Spencer, Steck, Orrick, Griffith, Graham and Cole.

On Federal Relations—Messrs. Turner, of Frederick, Hopper, Duckett, Jenifer, Risteau, Holland, of Montgomery, and Colston.

On Divorces—Messrs. Allnutt, Grabill, Pennington, Colston, Howkins, Clements and Griffith.

On Public Expenditure and Retrenchment—Messrs. Jamar, Billingsley, Sherwood, Jones, of Somerset, Walker, Banifant and Donaldson.

On Corporations—Messrs. Jones of St. Mary's, Hayden, Turner, of Calvert, Liden, Ege, Kirk and Martin.

POSTSCRIPT.

NEWS—BY THE MAIL OF YESTERDAY.—We learn from the papers which reached here last evening that a body of seven thousand Mexican cavalry had made an attack upon Tampico, and were repulsed by the American forces.

We also learn that the President sent a message to Congress on Monday last recommending an increase o' the regular army, and the appointment of a Lieutenant General. On the next day the committee on the Military reported against the recommendation, and the House acquiesced unanimously in the report. The yeas and nays were not called to save the feelings of the Executive. Truly there appears but little harmony between the Executive and Congress.

The difficulty between Mr. Davis and Judge Bayly has been settled through the interposition of friends.

MARRIED.

In this town, on Thursday last, by the Rev. Mr. Wyatt, CALEB B. SHEPHERD, Esq., to Mrs. FRANCES A. THOMAS, both of this county.

DIED.

In this county on Tuesday last, at his residence near Hickburg, Mr. JOHN ROBINSON.

Estray,

State of Maryland, Dorchester County, to wit:

I hereby certify that Perry Boston (negro) of the County aforesaid, brought before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in and for the said county, this 5th day of January A. D. 1847, as a stray, trespassing upon his wheat field, a dark bay or brown MARE about nine years old, blazed forehead, one white hind foot, much galled by the saddle, effected in the left eye, switched tail and racks finely. Given under my hand.

JOHN B. LECKIE.

The owner of the above described Mare is requested to prove property, pay charges and take her away. PERRY BOSTON.

near E. New Market, on the road leading to Cambridge.

Jan. 9th, 1847.—3w