From the Maryland Republican.

RECEPTION OF GEN. LA FAYETTE,
By the Legislature of Maryland.

On Monday the 20th inst. the Committee of arrangement on the part of both branches of the Legislature waited upon Gen. Lafayette at the Government House, and agreeably to previous arrangement conducted him and his suite to the State House, for the purpose of introducing him to the Senate and House of Delegates. Upon the General's arrival at the State House, the committee conducted him to the Council Chamber, where he was received by Governor Stevens and the members of the Executive Council. After remaining a short time, he proceeded, attended by the committee of arrangement on the part of the Senate, to the chamber of the Senate. Upon his entrance into the chamber, the General was announced to the Senate and conducted by the committee to the spot whereon Washington stood, when he resigned his commission to Congress. The President of the Senate, Col. WM. R. STEWART, then delivered to him the following address:—

GENERAL,

You are always welcome in every place, where liberty has a friend, or virtue an admirer.

The citizens of these free United States, all delight to manifest their gratitude and their love, to their early, and their constant friend.

Allow me in behalf of the Senate of Maryland, to assure you, that in no place, and by no portion of our citizens, are you welcomed with more heartfelt sincerity, than in this chamber, and by this body.

To You sir, in a distinguished degree, and to the other illustrious patriots whose fortunes and whose lives were consecrated to redeem the just claims of our countrymen to the rights of men and of nations, are we indebted under providence for all we enjoy.

In this legislative chamber half a century ago, your friend and fellow labourer, our immortal Washington; has illustrated the practical influence of those principles, which inflamed the bosom of our fathers.

Most of those who were the witnesses of that triumph of principle, and of virtue, have gone to receive the reward of their labours; but we their sons, have learned the story, and it is our highest boast to venerate, and with humble effort to imitate the glorious path of our sires.—General, our fondest recollections of your early devotion, to the cause of our struggling country, are rendered more dear to us, by the knowledge that you have in the interval of our separation, unceasingly directed your energies to the diffusion of those political blessings, to secure which excited your early labours in this country.

The mantle of our venerated Washington, has surrounded his surviving friend, and Europe, has been permitted to behold, in the person of Lafayette; that pure spirit of universal philanthropy, and that incorruptible & unyielding devotion to the rights of man, which has consecrated in our affections, the beloved name of the father of America.

That you may long live to enjoy the gratitude, and honors, which your character so justly claims, and to witness the accomplishment of every political anticipation, which your patriotism has prefigured, and that every domestic and personal happiness, which a good providence has reserved for the most favoured object of its bounty, may cheer the remaining days of our friend and benefactor, is most sincerely, and fervently, the aspiration of every member of the Senate of Maryland.

To which the General replied.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Senate.—The flattering welcome, the kind assurances with which the Senate of Maryland deign to honor me, excite in my breast feelings the more gratifying, as they mingle with a dutiful sense of the high favor conferred upon me forty years ago by a Maryland Assembly.

While the rights of the sovereignty of the people have been denied or betrayed by every sort of ancient and modern usurpers, it is pleasing to remember the day when on this floor the commission entrusted by the people to our great military chief was surrendered to that national legitimacy in the assertion of which the Maryland troops have acted under him, a most patriotic part, a part since rewarded by their having been blessed with sons fully worthy of their gallant and republican sires.

The approbation of this respected house for my conduct in another hemisphere is still enhanced by the sacred emblem under which you have been pleased in their names to express it. I most fondly join in your noble wishes for the triumph of universal philanthropy, and devotion to the rights and general welfare of mankind, and at the same time that I have the honor to thank you for your particular wishes in my behalf, I beg you, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Senate, to accept a tender of my everlasting attachment and respect.

The Senate, as soon as the General had finished adjourned. He was introduced by the President to each member of the Senate, and to such revolutionary soldiers and distinguished strangers as were present upon the occasion.

After his reception by the Senate, the committee of arrangement on the part of the House of Delegates, waited upon him and conducted him to the chamber of the House of Delegates. The general was conducted to the house and conducted by the committee to a seat, which had been previously prepared. The speaker of the House, Gen. Marriott, then addressed the General on the part of the members and after assuring him of their gratitude for his services, and of their joy at his presence, adverted to the happy situation in which he found our country, as it regarded her civil and religious institutions.*

General La Fayette replied in the following words:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates—

Amidst the continued enjoyments which have delighted the heart of an adopted son of this American union, I am particularly gratified to find myself so kindly welcomed by the representatives of a state where I have been, at the close of our revolutionary contest, honored with a special vote of adoption.

Your affectionate mention of services rendered to our beloved America cannot but recall to my mind, not only the gallant Maryland line, in the ranks of whom I am proud to have fought my first battle, but also the Maryland volunteers of 1781, and the Maryland achievements of the last war: So when you speak of religious liberty, I am happy to observe that the sacred principle of equality in the freedom of worship, has been in Maryland from the first day of its settlement most liberally established.

May this state, sir, in the wonderful improvements of its agriculture, commerce and manufactures, as well as in all other circumstances of public and private welfare, more and more reap the advantages of republican institutions and republican feelings. Be pleased Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House of Delegates, with these warm and dutiful wishes, to accept the tribute of my high respects and most grateful acknowledgements.

The house then adjourned and the members were severally introduced by the speaker to the General. The reception on the part of the House of Delegates being over, the General accompanied by his suite and the committee of arrangement retired. —During his reception, a national salute was fired. The lobies of both chambers were crowded, particularly with ladies, all of whom were anxious to witness the interesting ceremonies of his reception.

After the General retired from the state house, he paid visits to several of our oldest inhabitants and devoted two hours for the purpose of being introduced to the citizens.

At five o'clock the General and his suite were conducted by the committee of arrangement to the Hall of St. John's college, where a dinner† was given in honor of him at the public expense. The governor of the state presided, and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates acted as Vice Presidents. Captain Sprigg, late governor of Maryland and Col's. Mitchell and Kent and all the officers of the state and general government who were in our city as also the revolutionary soldiers were invited to attend. Many toasts were drank highly indicative of the respect and gratitude of the company for the character and services of Lafayette.

*I have not had it in my power to procure a copy of Gen. Marriott's address.

†The dinner was prepared by Mr. James Williamson and in justice to him, we must state that for propriety of arrangement and beauty of decorations it was highly creditable to his taste.

From the National Intelligencer of Dec. 22.

Gen. La Fayette, with his Son and Secretary, returned to this city yesterday afternoon, from his visit to Annapolis, escorted by Capt. Selby's troop of Anne Arundel cavalry, and accompanied by Messrs. Kent and Mitchell, of the House of Representatives of the United States, and by Col. Chambers, of the Senate of Maryland, and Col. Howard, of the House of Delegates of that state. The General was treated with the most marked respect and hospitality by the Legislature of Maryland, assembled at Annapolis, as well as by the inhabitants of that ancient metropolis, and he returns highly gratified with his visit. He spent last evening, by previous appointment, with the Mayor of the city and his lady, in company with a very numerous and brilliant assemblage of the officers of our Government, citizens and strangers, including the French Legation, and other foreigners of distinction.

The debate which took place in Congress upon the bill in favour of Gen. La Fayette served to elicit several interesting facts. The income of his estate at the commencement of our revolution, when he embarked in our cause was upwards of $28,000 per annum. He received neither pay nor emoluments for his services during the war, but on the contrary as the whole country knows, he distributed of his primary fortune to the extreme wants of our army—he literally clothed our soldiers and put shoes upon their bare feet out of his own purse. An investigation of his affairs took place at the time he was denounced by the Jacobins of France, and legal evidence was produced to their tribunals that he had spent in our cause 700,000 livres! about 140,000 dollars, which with interest to this date, would leave us immensely in debt yet, in an account of dollars and cents—but no such account exists between this friend of freedom and the freemen of this country.

Of the land which he received from congress after the confiscation of his estate in France, a portion was located in the vicinity of New-Orleans, and has now become immensely valuable, said to be estimated at 400,000 dollars. This land after the location, was by congress inadvertently granted to the city of Orleans, by which grant the city was immensely improved though La Fayette was impoverished. His claim was the best, but so far from maintaining it in such a case, he sent on his deed of relinquishment immediately, and had his location made where land is not now worth the having. The life and character of this man is replete with incidents which belongs to the cause of mankind—to the cause of republics—Europe knows not *yet* how to estimate such a man.—*Md. Rep.*

CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

TUESDAY, Dec. 23.

Mr. *Herkimer* asked leave, for himself and others, who had been absent from the House yesterday, to record their votes on the bill concerning General La Fayette. Leave being refused, he expressed his cordial acquiescence in the bill.

MR. RANDOLPH'S LETTER.

Mr. *Randolph* then rose in his place, and addressed the chair. A letter which he had addressed to his constituents having been the subject of animadversion here, he felt it due to himself, as well as those he represented, to state to the House, as briefly as possible, the facts of the case. He had been appointed a member of the committee to whom was referred the memorial of Ninian Edwards, of the 28th of April. A proposition had been submitted to this committee, which is in the recollection of the House. To that proposition he moved an amendment, which it is equally unnecessary to recite; when he was informed that a proposition similar to his had been agreed to by the committee. He asked to see the proposition referred to. It was handed to him. He saw a dissimilarity between the two, and pointed out the difference, in a manner which every member might comprehend. But that nothing might be left unexplained, he proceeded to enforce his proposition by such observations as he considered essential to the clearing away of any possible doubt.

During this discussion, the honorable member from Louisiana, on his right, entered the room. To him he stated the proposition before the Committee, and that honorable member coincided in the opinion that it was not easy to discover any other course which the Committee could pursue. Then, and not till then, there was a general acquiescence in his proposition. Then, and not till then, were all the members present. Then, and not till then, was his proposition adopted. It was unnecessary to say to the House, that nothing which he had written or said, could regard the ulterior decision of the Committee; and if proof were required, proof to satisfy the most incredulous could be found in the fact. It could be found in this fact, that, on the 11th of the ensuing month, a proposition was made by him to lay the minutes of the Committee, up to that day, before the House, which proposition was overruled. He had no wish to go further into the subject; but he had considered it his bounden duty to take the earliest opportunity to make this statement to the House.

The *Speaker* then began to call up the petitions, and Mr. *Cushman* had presented one, when

Mr. *Livingston* (having obtained the permission of the House) made a few observations. The facts which the gentleman from Virginia had stated, in relation to what passed before the Committee, were correct. He was there. The discussion took place in the precise manner stated by the gentleman from Viginia. The misunderstanding which had subsequently arisen upon the subject must, he presumed, have proceeded from a misconception of the phraseology of his letter. The words of that letter certainly justified the Committee in supposing that he meant to impute to them unfairness of conduct. The explanation of the gentleman from Virginia showed that such was not his intention, and he felt pleasure in bearing the testimony he now bore to the accuracy of his statements.

Mr. *Owen* rose to reply, to one part of the charge which had been made against the Committee, and which referred to the disposition of the Committee to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to reply. He wished to know if the gentleman from Virginia charged the Committee with refusing to receive such a reply. He, for one, was never opposed to it. When the gentleman entered the Committee room, a proposition was pending to that effect. He was satisfied that the gentleman's statement was correct, in that particular. The conversation which took place in the Committee room related to the manner in which this should be done. It was the opinion of some, that the language used was not the best that could have been adopted. It might not have been proper to call upon the Secretary; such a call might have been productive of personal inconvenience, or unpleasantness. Besides, if we had required him, to answer, it would have been necessary to embody the points for him to answer. He concluded with stating that he had, in the observations which he had made, relied entirely on his recollection.

Mr. *Webster* said, the impression which the letter had made upon his mind, was, that a majority of the Committee had been prevailed upon with difficulty to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to make a reply to the charges preferred against him. If that was not intended, or if no misconstruction of the letter had gone abroad, there would have been no cause for any of the observations which were made on the last day of the session. But the impression had been such as to render it imperative upon him to make those observations. If the charges contained in that letter were not intended to make such an impression, then all that was said, had been said under a mere misapprehension.

Mr. *Randolph* replied that he had made as clear a statement as he could of the facts which had occurred.

Mr. *M'Arthur* wished to know whether the gentleman from Virginia meant to have it understood that a majority of the committee did, with reluctance, consent to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to reply. If so, the impression of that gentleman, on the subject, was very different from that which he had received. He never knew that any single member had objected to this course. If the gentleman from Virginia never had such an impression, and had no such now, he would be satisfied if he would say so. But if he meant, what his letter seemed to purport, he would deny the position taken by the gentleman, as such was not the case.

Mr. *Floyd* made some observations in a low tone of voice. He was not in the House when Mr. Webster made his observations on the letter in question, on the last day of the session, nor was he aware of the fact until the observations had been made. He was then, as now, confident that there had been some misapprehension.

The statements made by his colleague were true. He recollected when he came into the House while the gentleman from Louisiana was speaking, that he heard something which seemed like an appeal to him, and to the gentleman from N. York, but he did not distinctly understand its object. He considered that his colleague had referred to general conversation only, and this was the ground of the misapprehension. He regretted much that any unpleasant feeling from one member of the committee towards another should have grown out of this business. He still retained the same impression on the subject which he had originally entertained. He had had some conversation with members of the committee, but had not referred to any documents, since his return to the city.

From the National Intelligencer of Dec. 24.

With a promptitude which enhances the value of the Proceeding, the act concerning Gen. LAFAYETTE, which passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday, was taken up, read three several times, and finally PASSED, in the Senate, yesterday, without a dissenting voice. It now only wants the signature of the President, which it is known that it will give him sincere pleasure to affix to this bill, to make it a law. A single voice in the Senate could have prevented the bill's receiving even its second reading yesterday: but, the thing being resolved upon, forms were dispensed with, that the act of national gratitude might be speedily consummated.

The bill has at length passed the House of Representatives, which has been for several years on the tapis, for occupying the Mouth of the Oregon, or Columbia River. It has been so amended as not to contemplate, even prospectively, a civil or territorial form of government. The occupation will therefore, for the present, be purely military.

The aboriginal name of the River, OREGON, will be restored to it, if this bill passes the Senate in its present shape, and we are glad of it. It is a sonorous word, and significant—the meaning of it being, when translated, *The River that runs to the West.*

Neither house of Congress is to sit again until Monday.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

From the Maryland Republican.

Abstract of Proceedings.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

From Friday 10th to 17th inclusive.

PETITIONS.

From Wm. L. Stewart for a divorce, and a petition from Elizabeth Stewart, the wife, counter thereto;—A bill was reported and passed; G. L. Rawliegh, for special act of insolvency, on which a bill was reported in favor by Mr. Hopper, which was passed by both houses; from sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, for the appointment of a public measurer of Potatoes in the city of Baltimore; from the Baltimore and Havre-de-Grace Turnpike Company, praying they may terminate the same at Bush-Town; from Jesse Hughes and Alexander Jones, respecting a deed; from Martin Bowers of Baltimore for a special act of insolvency; from Benjamin Cromwell, for a divorce; from Peter Robertson for insolvency; from John C. King, for insolvency; from Osborn Sprigg, of Allegany county for insolvency, a bill reported in his favor; from sundry tobacco planters of Frederick county, praying a repeal of the inspection law of last session; from John Gamber, Spedden Orem, and Thomas Townsend, revolutionary soldiers for pensions; from Rosanna Crowl, of Baltimore county for a divorce; from Ann Evitt, for a divorce; from Christian and Catharine Hyatt of Washington county, respecting the property of an illegitimate child, deceased; from Samuel R. Smith of Baltimore, for compensation for losses in erecting a tobacco warehouse; from George W. Parker for revolutionary pensions; from Barbary Riley, widow of Wm. Riley a revolutionary soldier for same. Various petitions from poor persons for support from the counties were also referred; from Wm. Richardson, of Charles county; from Mary Pearson Cheezum, of Caroline county, for remission of a fine, a bill reported favourably by Mr. Brown thereto passed this house, but was rejected in the senate; from Eliza Strode, of Montgomery county, to be authorised to hold certain negroes.

On motion of the gentlemen named, leave given to bring in the following bills:—

Mr. Millard, to pay the Civil List. Mr. Boon, for the relief of Sarah Cheezum, of Caroline county. Mr. Boon, to report a bill to facilitate the administration of justice in this state. Mr. Jarrett, to regulate officers fees. Mr. Millard to ascertain and settle the salary of the members of the Council for the ensuing year. Mr. Dennis, to reduce the number of trustees to Washington Academy. Mr. Estep, for the revaluation of real and personal property in Anne Arundel county. Mr. Estep, to regulate Ferries. Mr. Tingle, to require certain days to be set apart for the transaction of chancery business in the 4th judicial district. Mr. Chapman, to alter the constitution as relates to the election of the Governor and Council. Mr. Ireland, for the relief of James Mungar, Kent county. Mr. M'Mahon, supplement to the act incorporating the Allegany county school. Mr. Worthington, to fix the salary of the Clerk of the Council. Mr. Garner, to provide for the education of poor children in this state. Mr. Tingle to amend the act concerning crimes and punishments. Mr. Thomas, to regulate salted fish. Mr. Barnes, to repeal the acts relating to lotteries. Mr. Turner, supplement to the act authorising a lottery for completing an Episcopal Church in Baltimore county. Mr. Roberts, relating to the emigration of free negroes into this state; Mr. Turner, to repeal the act of 1821, relating to the removal of criminal causes in Baltimore city and county courts. Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Speed, to amend the act taxing certain offices; Mr. Merrick, to allow Baltimore city the same number of delegates that the counties are entitled to; Mr. Kemp, for a lottery for the German Reformed church in Middletown.

The following bills have passed the house. —For the support of Mary and George Adkins, of Worcester county; to confirm the proceedings of certain commissioners appointed to divide St. Mary's county into election districts; a further supplement to the act empowering the levy court of Cecil county to build a bridge over Octorara creek.

A bill from the senate to confirm the act of last session, changing the period of the meeting of the Legislature was read.

The usual messages proposing an interchange of the services of Chaplains took place.

The senate acceeded to the proposal of the house for a joint committee to consider and report on the constitution and laws of the state, intimating, however, at the same time, that they were not 'entirely satisfied of the uncertainty, difficulty and confusion suggested by the message of the house.'

On motion of Mr. Jarret an enquiry into the expediency of dispensing with the imparlance court and the right of supersedeas in all cases was referred to the committee of grievances.

Mr. Speed had leave to report a bill to repeal the act taxing certain offices passed last session. Afterwards the same gentleman had leave to report a bill to amend the act of taxing certain offices.

On motion of Mr. Eccleston, an enquiry into the expediency of taxing pleasure carriages, was referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Speed, on Monday, an enquiry into the state and utility of the auditors' office, was referred to the committee of Grievances—next day, on motion of the same gentleman, this order was rescinded and a substitute passed requiring the auditor himself to report the condition, duties and perquisites of said office.

Mr. M'Mahon on the same day had the enquiry on the expediency of continuing in existence said office, referred again to the committee of Grievances.

Mr. Worthington reports a bill to continue in force the acts which would expire with the present session.

On motion of Mr. Barnes, a call was made on the Register of the Chancery court for the number of cases undetermined in said court, the length of time they have remained there, the number of cases in which the papers have been lost, and the number of decisions made within the last two years.

On motion of Mr. Roberts, the committee on the militia were instructed to enquire into the services required of the armorer of the state, and whether their salaries might not be reduced.

The bill which has passed the senate confirming the alteration of the constitution, so that the legislature shall in future meet on the last Monday in December, on motion of Mr. Carroll, has been made the order of the day for the 16th January.

Mr. Hoffman reports a bill to authorise two Justices of the Peace to receive and approve security in the cases therein mentioned. Mr. Wilson, for support of Elizabeth Gingle of Montgomery county. Mr. Barnes, to repeal the present lottery laws.

Mr. Millard from the committee on divorces, reports favorably in the case of Wm. L. Stewart, and a bill accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Gough, a call was made upon the Armorer, to report the condition and quality of the states property under his charge. Mr. Nicholson had the call amended so as to include the Armorer of the Eastern Shore also.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the following order was read and assented to:

Whereas the security of free representative government and the wealth and prosperity of states, mainly depend upon the general diffusion of useful knowledge. And whereas the improvement of agriculture, and the advancement of science, are preeminently essential to the happiness of the people, and the general welfare.

It is therefore ordered, that a committee to consist of seven members, be appointed by the speaker, to inquire into the present system of public instruction throughout this state, and to devise a system, the views of which shall embrace the primary or common schools as the basis; and that the said committee shall especially consider the interest of agriculture, as connected with education, that they have power to suggest the sources of revenue proper to sustain the charges of the desired system, and to procure all necessary information, and report the same to this house. Ordered, that Messrs. Teackle, Spencer, Garner, Maxcy, Boon, Weems and Gough, be the said committee.

Mr. Speed reports a bill entitled, 'an act to provide for, and continue to Jeremiah Townly Chase, during his natural life, the same salary which he was entitled to under the commission he lately resigned, as chief judge of the third judicial district,' which is ordered to have a second reading on the 3d of January next.

On motion of Mr. Lee, the committee of Grievances was instructed to inquire into the expediency of suspending executions, issued against real estate after the first of March next.

AMERICAN NOVELS.

A whisper has reached us from an authentic source, that another of our countrymen is about to enter on the literary course already so creditably pursued by Brown and Cooper. Like the latter of these gentlemen, his attention, it is said, will be confined to the embellishment of American history and the illustration of native manners.—His first essay, it is understood, will embrace the momentous scenes anterior and subsequent to, as well as a spirited sketch of the action on Long Island during the Revolutionary War. The incidents are of the most interesting nature, and cannot fail, if handled with even moderate ability, to render the proposed work a desirable acquisition to the novelist's library. The commencement, we are informed, will be placed in the printer's hands in a few days.—*N. Y. Patriot.*

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