lost by those officers on the western shore, since the commencement of the government in 1776 to this time; and there is not now any one of them in arrears for debts due previous to 1823, and the total amount due by all of them, to this time, does not amount, as per statement A, to two thousand dollars.

By sheriffs a considerable loss has been already incurred, and of debts considered valid, they owe about twenty seven thousand dollars. But it is not the state alone that has suffered by the default of sheriffs, many of their securities have been totally ruined, and it behoves the legislature to adopt such measures as will remedy those evils, as far as is practicable.

The act of December session 1822, chapter 217, entitled, 'An act for the speedy collection of the public revenue;' has not only lessened the annual expences of collection, but has caused payments to be made more punctually into the treasury, as in event of default, for three months after monies become due and payable, the clerks or sheriffs lose their commission, of six per cent. Still in regard, to sheriffs particularly, and their securities, some further measures might be adopted, and the revenue arising from licences granted to retailers of spirituous liquors should be made payable to the county clerks, who receive payment of all other licenses.

The aggregate amount of debts due to the state on the western shore, which can be considered good, amounted, as the agent has already observed, on the first day of December 1824, to about eighty thousand dollars; and the total amount of invalid debts due to the state on the western shore from the formation of the government to this time, with interest would amount almost to five hundred thousand dollars, as will appear from the estimates made of the several statements hereunto annexed.

Recapitulation.—Valid debts.

Due to 1st December 1824, per statement A		$79,840 91
	Invalid Debts.	
Statement B say*	$55,000 00	
C	75,000 00	
D	320,000 00	
E	48,000 00	
Total invalid debts,	$498,000 00	

Probably the real amount, justly due, would be considerably less than the above sum, still it will be found large enough to call forth the vigilant attention of the present and every future legislature.

The state had agents from the year 1790 until 1801, both inclusive as will appear from the statement marked F. There was not any agent from 1801 until 1822, when the present agent was first appointed. The commissions of the former agents, and the amount he has received for the last three years, also appears on the same statement.

When the present agent was first appointed in February 1822, the total amount of valid debts then due to the state, from clerks and sheriffs, amounted to about thirty thousand dollars. He has collected and paid into the treasury, on account of their old debts, upwards of twenty one thousand dollars; and of revenue due in 1822, upwards of eight thousand dollars, upon which he has not charged any commission, and as a proof that the debts are again beginning to accumulate, he need only refer to the statement A, which shews that there is now due to the state chiefly from sheriffs, upwards of twenty nine thousand dollars, being nearly as much as when he was first appointed. Over the debts becoming due since February 1822, it is not considered that he has any control.

The agent will with pleasure give any further information in his power to the legislature, or to the members individually, the subject is one of great importance to the people of Maryland, for although past losses cannot be retrieved, future losses may be prevented. All which is respectfully submitted. THO. KENNEDY,

State Agent, Western Shore, Md.

January 1st, 1825.

*Doubtful in part.

Mr. Steele reports a bill, entitled, An act to empower the levy court of Dorchester county to appoint a bailiff for the Town of Vienna, in said county; which was twice read, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Millard obtained leave to bring in a bill to regulate divorces, so as to vest the power in the county courts of this state.

On motion by Mr. Eccleston, Ordered, That the committee of ways and means, be and they are hereby directed to enquire into the expediency of taxing steam boats and public coaches.

Mr. Tingle reports a bill, entitled, An act declaring the assent of the legislature to the devise of lands in the will of John Postly, late of Worcester county, deceased, to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America; which was twice read, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Lee reports a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, A further additional supplement to the act for the distribution of a certain fund for the purpose of establishing free schools in the several counties therein named.

And Mr. Tingle reports a bill, entitled, An act to amend an act, entitled, An act concerning crimes and punishments.

The house adjourns until to morrow morning 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, Jan. 6.

The speaker laid before the house reports from the clerks of Saint Mary's and Calvert counties, a report relative to the school funds for Cecil county, and a report from the trustees of Washington Academy, Somerset county.

Mr. Dennis presents a petition from Thomas Humphreys, praying for the sale of a lot of ground in the town of Salisbury, the property of a minor, for the benefit of the said minor.

Mr. Jones presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, that a read therein mentioned, may be made public.

On motion by Mr. Speed, the following message was read.

By the House of Delegates, Jan. 6.

Gentlemen of the Senate—This day having been heretofore fixed upon by both houses, for the election of a Register of Wills of Baltimore county, we will, with the concurrence of your honourable body, proceed to that election at 12 o'clock. No additional candidate is put in nomination by us.

The message was then assented to, and sent to the senate.

By the House of Delegates, Jan. 6.

Gentlemen of the Senate—We return you the bill, entitled, An act to ascertain and fix the salary of the clerk of the council, which was rejected by your honourable body on the 5th instant, with a full hope, that on mature reflection, you will reconsider and pass the same.

On motion by Mr. Dalrymple, Ordered, That the executive be requested to communicate to this house as far as they can ascertain, the quantity of wood annually purchased for the legislature, and that department, as also the terms on which such purchases, are made, and whether any part of said wood is consumed by any other of the departments of the government, if so, by whom, and on what authority, and any other information relative to the fuel and its consumption, which they may be enabled to communicate.

Mr. Steele delivers the following report: The committee to whom was referred the petition of Frances Baker, of Dorchester county, for a law to authorise her to open a certain road therein mentioned, report unfavourably on said petition, on the ground, that the act of assembly of last session, chapter 73, fully provides for this case, and gives the levy court of Dorchester county fully and explicitly all the power necessary to enable them to hear and decide on this case. They respectfully recommend, therefore, that the petitioner have leave to withdraw her petition.

Which was concurred with.

Ordered, That the supplement to an act to tax certain officers, have a second reading on the 12th inst.

The bill to alter and abolish so much of the constitution and form of government of the state of Maryland as relates to the oath to be taken by the senators and delegates previous to the election of governor and council, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

On motion by Mr. Thomas, the bill to require the levy court of Cecil county to publish their proceedings, was recommitted.

Ordered, That the order appointing a committee to alter the constitution so as to provide that members shall vote for governor and council viva voce, have a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. Merrick obtained leave to bring in a bill to alter and change all such parts of the constitution and form of government as relate to the election of delegates to the general assembly of this state. Ordered, That the committee appointed to report a bill to increase the delegation of the city of Baltimore, report the same.

Mr. Hopper presents a memorial from Dr. Edward Harris, of Queen Ann's county, praying the sheriff of Baltimore county to bring into court in Queen Ann's county, certain witnesses.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the following resolution was read.

Whereas it appears by the report of the treasurer of the western shore, that there are large sums of money laying in the treasury, 'due from the state to sundry persons, overpaid by them on their bonds for confiscated property,' and 'to sundry persons for allowances on the journal of accounts from October 1780 to 1st December 1824,' which have not been claimed for many years; Therefore, Resolved, That all over payments, and all appropriations for the journal of accounts, unclaimed, shall revert to the state, and that the treasurer, with the advice of the executive and chancellor, for the time being, be required to invest the same in some productive capital for the public benefit.

On motion by Mr. Merrick, Ordered, That the committee on the militia be instructed to enquire into the expediency of dispensing with five of the six annual musters of militia, except in the case of volunteer associations.

Mr. Merrick obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to enable illegitimate children to inherit and transmit property in the maternal line.

Mr. Worthington presents a memorial from James P. Heath, late register in chancery, setting forth the reasons why he did not record the papers of said court.

Mr. Hooper presents a petition from Levin Briddle, of Worcester county, praying for support.

The house proceeded to ballot for a register of wills for Baltimore county. The ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named to strike retired to the conference room, and after some time returned and reported, that David M. Perrine was elected.

Whereupon Resolved, That David M. Perrine be and he is hereby recommended to the governor to be commissioned as register of wills for Baltimore county.

Mr. Brown reports a bill, entitled, An act to change the name of John Vane, of Caroline county, to John Clinton Cooper; which was twice read by special order and passed.

The house adjourns until to morrow morning 9 o'clock.

FRIDAY, Jan. 7.

Mr. Merrick reports a bill, entitled, An act to alter and amend the constitution so as to allow to the city of Baltimore a representation equal to that of the several counties of this state.

The supplement to an act, entitled, A further additional supplement to the act for the distribution of a certain fund for the purpose of establishing free schools in the several counties therein named, was read the second time, amended, passed and sent to the senate.

Mr. Travers presents a petition from Henry Nichols, collector of Dorchester county, to be relieved from the payment of interest on a debt due to the state; referred to the committee on ways and means.

The resolution proposed by Mr. Teackle, relative to balances in the treasury, was read the second time and referred to the committee of ways and means.

On motion by Mr. Duvall, the following message was read.

By the House of Delegates, Jan. 7.

Gentlemen of the Senate,—We propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to go into the election of a United States senator on the last Tuesday of this month. The term of service of one of the present senators will expire on the 4th March next; assented to and sent to the senate.

Mr. Merrick reports a bill, entitled, An act to alter and change all such parts of the constitution and form of government as relates to the election of delegates to the general assembly of this state. Ordered, That the same have a second reading on Tuesday, the 18th inst.

Mr. Tingle delivers the following report, The committee to whom was referred the petition of William Stanford, & others, of Worcester county, praying that the judge of the land office of the Eastern Shore may be directed to have placed to their credit, such sums of money as he may be satisfied they have paid to Lambert Clayland, late register of that office, as caution money, have had the same under consideration and are of opinion that it would be inexpedient to legislate upon the subject; they therefore recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition. By order,

ISAAC HINES, Clk.

Which was twice read and concurred with.

The clerk of the senate returns the bill authorising John Hackett, of Queen Ann's county, to sell the lands therein mentioned, endorsed 'will not pass.' Also the the supplement to an act, entitled, An act to amend and reduce into one the several acts of assembly relating to the public roads in Worcester county, passed at December session 1821, endorsed 'will pass.' Ordered to be engrossed. Also the supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the establishment and regulation of the levy courts of the several counties in this state, endorsed 'will pass with the proposed amendments;' which amendments were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Brown reports a bill for the relief of Mary Cheezum, of Caroline county; which was twice read, passed, and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate returns the supplement to the act declaring the assent of the legislature to the devise of lands in the will of John Postly late of Worcester county, deceased, to the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, endorsed, 'will pass.' Ordered to be engrossed.

And the following message:

By the Senate, Jan. 7.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,—We have received your message proposing to go into the election of a senator of the United States at one o'clock to day.

The senate are not prepared to go into the election at so early a period, and respectfully propose, that Tuesday the 25th instant, be named as the day of that election; which was assented to.

Mr. Thomas obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to alter all such parts of the constitution and form of government as relates to the time and manner of electing the senate, and the mode of filling up vacancies in that body, so as to have the senate elected immediately by the people. Ordered, That Messrs. Thomas, Jarrett and Maxcy, report the same.

The house adjourns until to morrow morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, January 8.

Mr. Eccleston reports a bill, entitled, An act to limit the number of justices of the peace in the several counties of this state.

Mr. Lee reports a bill, entitled, An act incorporating the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

Mr. Spencer presents a petition from Nathan Porter, of Talbot county; referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

On motion by Mr. Beall, the following message was read assented to, and sent to senate.

By the House of Delegates, Jan. 8.

Gentlemen of the Senate,—We propose, with your concurrence, to dissolve the committee on the penitentiary, believing that no possible good can result to the state from the investigations of said committee.

By order, JOHN BREWER, Clk.

Mr. Worthington obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act to prevent the unlawful exportation of negroes and mulattoes, and to alter and amend the law concerning runaways.

Mr. Worthington reports said bill.

Mr. Hopper delivers the following report: The committee on special acts of insolvency, to whom was referred the petition of Charles Lecompte, of Dorchester county have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report,—That they think his case amply provided for by the existing laws; they therefore recommend that he have leave to withdraw his petition.

By order, ISAAC HINES, Clk.

Which was twice read & concurred with.

Mr. Grubb moved for leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to reduce the per diem of the members of the legislature of this state, and for other purposes.

The house adjourns until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

THE LAFAYETTE DINNER AT WASHINGTON.

According to previous arrangements, the Dinner given by the Members of both Houses of Congress to General LAFAYETTE, took place on Saturday, the first of January. At four o'clock, the whole range of front rooms, at Williamson's extensive establishment, (now occupied by private families) was thrown open for the reception of the company; and, at six o'clock, the company, in number exceeding two hundred, sat down to a sumptuous and elegant Dinner, prepared in Mr. Williamson's best style.

Mr. GAILLARD, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and Mr. CLAY, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided at the feast.

On the right of the President of the Senate, sat our venerable chief magistrate, the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, who graced, by his presence as a guest the most memorable feast that has ever taken place in this country. On the left of the chair sat THE NATION'S GUEST, supported by several of his brethren of the Revolution, among whom were recognized Gen. SAMUEL SMITH, Gen. JACKSON, Mr. RUFUS KING, and Messrs. CHANDLER & D'WOLF, of the Senate, and Gen. UDREE of the House. The Speaker was supported, on his right, by the Secretary of State and the Post Master General, and on his left by the Secretary of War and Judge THOMSON, of the Supreme Court of the United States. Among the invited guests were also recognized General DEARBORN, our late minister to Portugal, GEORGE WASHINGTON LAFAYETTE, and the General's friend, Mr. LA VASSEUR—also, Generals SCOTT, MACOMB, BERNARD and JESUP, of the Army, and Commodores BAINBRIDGE, TINGEY, STEWART, and MORRIS, of the NAVY, with many other public officers civil and military of high rank in the various departments of our government.

The hall was adorned with pictures and flags, arranged with great elegance and taste. The flags, from the War and Navy Departments were obtained for the occasion, and contributed to revive in the mind associations dear to the heart of every American.

After the cloth was removed, the following Toasts were drank, accompanied by appropriate Music from the excellent band attached to the Marine Corps. The sentiments were received by the company with great enthusiasm. When the health of Mr. MONROE was proposed, the company rose with one accord, and seemed to pay him the homage, not merely of the lips, but of devoted hearts. The President was deeply affected by these marks of regard, and returned thanks in the feeling and appropriate terms noticed below. The presence of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, on this grateful occasion, was an incident, which seemed to spread satisfaction through the whole assembly.

1. *The Day*, which exhibits the PATRIARCH OF LIBERTY, surrounded by his brethren and in the midst of his children.
2. *The memory of Washington.*
3. *The President of the United States.*—Our respectability abroad and prosperity at home are the best eulogy of his administration.

On the toast being drank, the PRESIDENT rose and said—'I cannot but be deeply affected by the generous sentiments which you have expressed in favor of my conduct, in the high trust which I have so long held from my country. In our respectability abroad and prosperity at home, no one can take a more profound interest than I do. It is to the virtue and intelligence of our fellow citizens that we owe this success, and I see in it the most decisive proof of the excellence and stability of our republican institutions. That I have exerted my best faculties in a long course of public service to support these institutions and to promote the welfare and happiness of our union, is most certain. To receive this public acknowledgement from so distinguished an assembly on an occasion so highly interesting and honorable to the nation, affords me a gratification which I shall forever cherish.'

4. The *Statesmen* who proclaimed, and the *Heroes* who achieved, our Independence—Unspeakable gratitude for unspeakable benefits.
5. *A Nation's Gratitude*—The tribute of the heart which millions of freemen are paying to one of the most generous of their benefactors.
6. *The Constitution of the United States*—The happy result of mental energy and moral excellence.
7. *The Union of the States*, cemented by the blood of our martyrs, endeared to us alike by the trophies of war, and the blessings of peace—It rests on the immutable basis of our common glories and interests.
8. Gen. LAFAYETTE, the great Apostle of rational Liberty, unawed by the frowns of Tyranny, uninfluenced by the blandishments of Wealth, and unseduced by popular applause—the same in the Castle of Olmutz as in the active scenes of his labour, and the height of his renown.

[When this Toast was drank, Gen. LAFAYETTE rose, and said—'Gentlemen of both Houses; I want words to express the respectful and grateful sense I have of all the favors and kindnesses you are pleased to confer on me. I hope you will do justice to the warm feelings of an American heart; I beg leave to propose the following Toast:

'Perpetual Union among the United States: it has saved us in our times of danger: it will save the world.']

9. *The Army of the United States*—New Orleans, Bridgewater, and Chippewa; appropriate continuations of the history of Bunker's Hill, Saratoga, and Yorktown.
10. *The Navy of the United States*—It has nobly won the garlands that adorn it; may it flourish, like its own oak, in invincible strength and perpetual verdure.
11. *The People*, the only legitimate source of political power—While rulers are responsible agents, they can never long abuse their authority, or be unmindful of their trust.
12. *Public Opinion and a Free Press*—'The cherubim and flaming sword' which 'keep the way of the Tree' of Liberty.
13. *The memory of* KOSCIUSKO *and* STEUBEN, PULASKI *and* DE KALB—Illustrious compeers of our illustrious Guest.
14. *The Republics of South America and Mexico*—Instructed by our example, may they participate in our success.
15. *Greece*—May the glories of antiquity be re-kindled amidst her desolate groves and broken altars, and Athens and Sparta be retouched into life with fresh associations of splendour and renown.
16. *Woman*—Her virtues are at once the highest reward and the best security for our own.

After the regular toasts had been drank, Mr. GAILLARD, the President of the Senate, rose, and gave the following toast.

May every generous and gallant defender of a nation's rights meet with the noblest reward that can be received by man—a nation's admiration, gratitude and affection.

Mr. CLAY then rose, and said, he wished, in a parting glass, to propose a sentiment, for which he anticipated a cordial reception from both their illustrious guests, and from every other gentleman present. It has indeed been, as it was impossible it should not be on this pleasing occasion, alluded to in the toasts prepared with so much judgement and taste by the excellent Committee of Arrangement, and which had already received, as they merited, unqualified approbation. But the sentiment deserved repetition, he hoped without arrogance, that he might say a distinct and emphatic expression from him.—Whilst we are enjoying, in peace, plenty, and safety, the blessings of those free institutions, which the valor and the patriotism of our sires and their gallant companions now present have established, and freely and gratefully indulging in our Revolutionary Recollections, can we forget that our neighbors and friends, on the same continent, are now struggling to achieve that freedom and Independence which here happily was so successfully vindicated? In their behalf no foreign nation no generous and disinterested Lafayette has risen—unaided, they have sustained their glorious cause alone, conscious of its righteousness, and with no other helps than those which their courage, their morasses, and their Andes, have supplied. If the monarch of miserable Spain had ever displayed any extraordinary moral fitness—if he possessed any superior wisdom for governing—if, situated beyond the Atlantic, within his contracted European Peninsula, all mankind was not obliged to confess the folly and the presumption of his vain effort to regain his lost dominion over the greater part of America, we might moderate our sympathies and feel a less lively interest in the final issue of the war. But wretched Spain, governed itself by a foreign power—infatuated Monarch, yet to cherish the impracticable hope of maintaining a rule in the New World for which he is utterly incompetent in the Old—He would no longer detain the Company. He proposed

'Gen. Bolivar, the Washington of South America, and the Republic of Colombia.'

As soon as this toast had been drank, the President and the General retired, and the company soon afterwards separated, at an early hour, greatly delighted. The Entertainment began and ended without the occurrence of a single circumstance to mar the pleasure of a celebration which, in all its circumstances, can hardly admit of a parallel.—The only regret that could be felt on the occasion was, that the large number of the members of Congress, necessarily prevented the general extension of invitations.

The scene was so impressive, so well calculated to excite and preserve patriotic sentiments and feelings, that it was desirable it should have been enjoyed by the whole community. With the best arrangements, however, and the greatest possible economy of space the committee found themselves compelled to limit the invited guests to the number for which suitable accommodation could be provided.

The committee of arrangements for the Lafayette Festival consisted of Messrs. Hayne, R. M. Johnson, and Mills, of the Senate, and Messrs. Hamilton, Van Rensselaer, and McArthur, of the House of Representatives.

GHENT TREATY & ST. PETERSBURGH CONVENTION.

The Norfolk Herald states the number of slaves for which claims for indemnity have been presented to the Board of Commissioners now setting at Washington, is from 3,600 to 3,700; and that the claims, inclusive of other property coming within the provisions of the treaty, amount to nearly three millions of dollars.

The same paper adds—

The interest which many of our readers & others have in the subject for which compensation is provided by this treaty and convention, has induced us to procure a state of the business now before the Commissioners. From a source which we consider correct, we present our readers with the following summary:

On the 13th of September last, the Board after a candid and laborious investigation of evidence, collected in the states, from Maryland to Louisiana, agreed upon the average value of slaves, for whom idemnification may be due under the Convention.

This agreement saved the necessity of referring the subject to the Minister of the Emperor of Russia; it saved time and was in every way more desirable, and we are informed, the claimants in Maryland and Virginia, have no cause to complain, except in particular cases, of this average value, which is two hundred and eighty dollars for each slave:

The average value being agreed on, the Board adjourned to the 8th of the present month, in order to give time for the definitive list, to be completed, and furnished by the Department of State. Pursuant to their adjournment, the Board met and on the 9th the definitive list was received by the commissioners, and no time was lost in arranging the claims of examination, which was a work of more time and labour than would be imagined by persons who have not possessed the means of knowing the facts of the case—and it may not be improper to notice some complaints, which have been made, of the dilatory proceedings of this Commission, and others which have been made against the Department of State—These complaints are equally unfounded as to both.

The definitive list was not under the Convention to be furnished until the average value was fixed, which could only be done by a mutual agreement between the British and American Commissioners or a reference to the Russian Minister. We are assured this enquiry was pursued with all imaginable patience, harmony and candour. As respects the Department of State no blame can be fairly imputed, in not sooner returning the definitive list; it was a delay calculated for the benefit of the Claimants, as facts prove; for notwithstanding the delay, or more correctly speaking, the indulgence, a number of Claimants have presented their claims after the definitive list was returned, and they have been in consequence not admitted.

Yesterday the Commissioners were to have proceeded to the examination of such

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