Requesting our representatives and senators in congress to endeavor to obtain the erection of a light house on Cedar Point.

In favor of Charles Jones.

BILLS PASSED BOTH HOUSES.

To authorise the leasing and sale by Clarissa Philpot, and Edward Philpot, two of the minor children of Bryan Philpot, late of Baltimore county, deceased, of certain lots of ground in the city of Baltimore.

Relating to actions of replevin.

To relieve executors and administrators from the obligation of performing the duty of guardians.

To authorise the levy court of Frederick county to appoint commissioners for the purposes therein mentioned.

Supplement to the act respecting the final close and settlement of the bank of Caroline.

For the relief of Ann Nichols, of Queen Ann's county.

To authorise aliens to purchase and hold real property in this state.

To authorise the excavation of a canal in Somerset county.

To amend the constitution and form of government as it relates to the division of Somerset county into election districts:

Regulating appeals from Magistrates courts.

The supplement to an act, entitled, an act relating to the public roads in Caroline county.

We are indebted to the politeness of a friend for a copy of the following circular letter.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17, 1826.

CLEMENT C. BIDDLE, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

Since my return from Harrisburg, which place I visited on business of a *professional* and *private* nature, I have learned that an impression prevails among some of my fellow citizens, that as I accompanied the gentlemen of the deputation from Maryland, I was associated with them in the purpose for which they proceeded to the seat of our state government.

The error of this impression I am desirous to correct, as the gentlemen alluded to are connected with it, and from a wish, that an importance to which it was not entitled, and an object with which it had no relations, shall not be assigned to my recent absence from the city.

The politeness of Mr. Chief Justice Tilghman first introduced me to the acquaintance of *Messrs. Chambers, Goldsborough and Lee*, the *Maryland deputation*, on the 26th of January, and then I was first informed of the object of their mission. They proposed to visit Harrisburg after their return from New Jersey; and intending myself to go there the following week, I expressed to those gentlemen the satisfaction I should have in meeting them, and I was invited to accompany them, if my arrangements would enable me so to do. The proposition was received as a compliment, and I expressed myself gratified by it.

In the conversation of the evening, I stated to one of the gentlemen of the deputation, my strong desire, that their mission and its objects should be communicated to some of the members of the Abolition Society; most justly considered as the disinterested guardians of the rights and interests of the coloured population of our state, and whose efficient labours in the cause, gave them a title to know every purpose, which might, in any manner affect the interests of that people. The proposition was received with frankness, and I was solicited to communicate to the president of the society, their readiness to inform him and any of the members, of the whole intentions and views of the deputation.

This I did, and after the return of the gentlemen from New Jersey, on the 28th of January, at their renewed instance I again mentioned to the president, their wishes to state "*informally*," but with perfect openness and candor, all the principles and objects which they desired to establish and obtain at Harrisburg. The importance of the trust, and the high character of those who composed the deputation, seemed to justify the expectation that the proposition would be accepted. It was however declined from motives, which all who know the gentleman to whom it was submitted, must respect.

The deputies were to depart for Harrisburg on the 29th of January, and my own arrangements to leave the city according with theirs, I with great pleasure, upon a repetition of their invitation, agreed to accept it. Thus, with the objects of their mission, it must be seen I had no connection whatsoever; and that my association with the gentlemen who composed it, was the result of accident, and was one which all who know their merits and their talents, would be most desirous to cultivate.

It was not left until the period of my intimate knowledge of the gentlemen of the deputation, which the journey and some circumstances attending it, enabled me to acquire; that I should become convinced, that among many of our fellow citizens of the southern states, as much humanity—as kind consideration—as generous sympathies towards the people of colour prevail, as exist in the hearts of any citizens of my native state. Long and closely as I have been associated in the cause of abolition with men, a union with whom, in that purpose, as it would be in any other of which they would approve, was a source of the highest gratification to me; I state with emphasis, that in none of the most humane advocates of the cause can there be found firmer or more ardent friends to the abolition of slavery in the United States, upon proper and *constitutional* principles, than the three gentlemen of the Maryland deputation. This is a just tribute to their virtues and their principles, and it is one which I render with the highest satisfaction.

In this effort to correct public opinion, upon my own subject, it must not be supposed that I oppose the purposes for which the deputation from Maryland visited Harrisburg, or the principal features and objects of the bill reported to the house of representatives. Of their purposes, as I know them, and of the provisions of that bill, as I understand them, and with some modifications, *I entirely approve*. I hold "the constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, as *the supreme law of the land*." As one of my obligations under that constitution, I am constrained to submit to the provision that "no person held to service or labour in one state under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labour, *but shall be delivered up*, on claim of the party to whom such service or labour may be due." The act of congress of February 12th, 1793, which gives to the person "to whom such service and labour is due, by the laws of a particular state," from an individual who shall have escaped into any other state, a right "*to seize and arrest such fugitive*." is by me admitted to be *of binding force in Pennsylvania on every citizen of the commonwealth*. I admit the principle, that since the act of the assembly of this state of 27th of March, 1820, in which the right of legislation, in reference to the constitution and laws of the United States, relative to fugitives, was claimed and exercised and while the provisions of that law are in force; it cannot be said, the legislature of Pennsylvania are not *constitutionally bound*, to interfere with, and to enact laws conforming to the constitutional provisions on the subject of fugitives. In my judgment the provision of the constitution of the United States, which declares that fugitives from labour, "*shall be delivered up*," imposes upon the states *the duty to enact laws providing for the mode, and authorizing a course of proceeding by and through which "the delivery" shall take place*.

I am willing and desirous that a bill shall be enacted into a law, which shall place the arrest of a fugitive in the hands of an officer of the peace of our commonwealth, responsible to our laws, and thus at the moment when the inquiry into his right to freedom shall be commenced, gives him the protection of such an officer, and of our laws; *instead of allowing his angered master to seize him*—which shall give *exclusively* to a *judge* of a Court of Record, the right to adjudicate upon the claims of the asserted owner; which shall enjoin upon such judge the obligation to give to the person arrested, sufficient time, and a full opportunity to resist, by testimony, the asserted claim; and which, during all the period to elapse before the final hearing, shall give the person arrested *full protection and safety*—and provide that after the right of the owner to the fugitive shall have been ascertained according to the law of the United States, that it shall be the duty of the judge to place him under the guardianship and protection of one of our own officers, who will convey him, (without harshness or unkindness,) to the borders of our state; instead of delivering him to his master, excited to resentment by the difficulties to which he has been exposed.

The object of some of the provisions of the bill is to save our virtuous and humane citizens, from the heavy penalties of the act of congress, to which they are so frequently exposed by their efforts in the cause of the people of colour.

As by the certain means of recovering fugitives from labour, which the law is intended to afford, the inducements which now so powerfully influence the citizens of Maryland to sell their slaves to more southern masters will be taken away; those unfortunate beings will be retained in the neighbourhood of the free states, and within the sphere of abolition. The march of those principles, which will produce the entire abolition of slavery in the state of Maryland, is certain and onward; and thus many of the coloured people of that state, will be emancipated, who, if sold to the southern section of the union, would, with their children, and their children's children be consigned to hopeless and perhaps interminable bondage!

I am proud to say that in these opinions I have the concurrence of as sound friends of abolition, of as respectable and estimable citizens, of as correct constitutional lawyers, as can be found in our community.

Upon principles like these, and with an honourable firmness, upon these just views of their constitutional and legislative obligations, was the bill supported by most of the representatives of the city of Philadelphia; by a member from the county, and by many other gentlemen of the legislature; and I desire *no higher association*, than to be united with gentlemen so much entitled to the confidence and regard of their fellow citizens.

I do not wish in this communication to assail or impugn the opinions or views of any of those who differ from me on the subjects of which I have written; nor do I express my opinions with a view to obtain their support among my fellow citizens. I have long known and have always respected, the motives and the purposes of those who differ from me. I only ask that my own conduct shall be properly known and understood, and I trust this will be a sufficient apology for my intrusion on your time, and more important avocations.

I am with great regard, your friend,

RICHARD PETERS, Jun.

HEMPEN PAPER.—Broxetti, an Italian manufacturer, has made some trials to produce paper from unmacerated Hemp stalks. And it also appears that still more successful ones have been made under the direction of a professor Silvani. The paper obtained is of an equal texture, it has much body, a smooth surface, and will bear ink without being sized. The sole defect seems to be that it contains minute fragments of the ligneous parts of the hemp stalks. It is said to be very well adapted for folding paper, or for common writing paper.

From the Watchman.

An Extract from the Return of Force employed by *Reybold & Clark*, Contractors for that portion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal which is between St Georges and the river Delaware—about 3½ miles in length.

	Men.	*Teams.*
On section No. 3, (which is in the marsh) excavating 6 ft. deep,	183	—
On the Tow Path Embankment, (North Side of the Canal,)	214	152
On the Guard Bank, (South Side of do.)	50	26
	Men. T.	
Carpenters, Mill Wrights and Pump Makers, Sec. 3,	15 0	
Men and Horses employed at the Pumps	2 2	
	17	2
	464	180
Amount of men,	464	
Teams calculated at 3 each, is	540	
	1004	

Making the force employed on this section, on the 20th of January, 1826, exclusive of the Contractors and Assistants, and Boarding Masters and Assistants, equal to 1004 men.

The force is increasing, as the Contractors continue to give employment to men and teams. The progress they have made during the short days of the winter, induce them and those who have seen their work, to believe that they will have their contract completed in June next.

A FRIEND TO CANALS.

To the Editors of the Watchman.

In the year 1824, complaints were frequently heard of a supposed insuperable difficulty imposed upon the Contractor by an order issued by the Directors of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, requiring him to excavate the Canal in the winter season, through the marshes in section No. 3. Upon a representation of the Contractor to the Engineer of the Canal Company, he granted an indulgence of a suspension of that work until the ensuing spring of 1825. The present Contractors, of choice, have been employed since October last, in forming the two embankments, of the Canal and draining and excavating the Canal in section No. 2 and section No. 3, in the marshes—Their progress is sufficient evidence of the practicability of the work being executed in the winter season; as they have not met with any difficulty which could not be removed by the usual power of Men and Teams skilfully applied

Their plan of operations is plain and easily comprehended. Two ditches were cut through the marsh, in which earth was placed for the foundations of the two embankments of the Canal;—on these the teams were employed in raising the earth to a considerable height above the surface of the marsh; a ditch of 12 ft. broad and 6 feet deep was cut within the lines of the Canal, into which the water in the bowels of the marsh was drained. Twelve pumps were then wrought day and night by horses, in raising the water from that ditch to an elevation, whence it freely passes to the outside of the embankment of the Canal. By these precautions the ditches are excavating the Canal in the winter season without any interruption from the water.

Advantage is taken of the situation of the various points of upland nearest the Canal, & from them the earth is carted over causeways and bridges, with expedition, to form the embankments of solid earth; and the connection of the several portions of them are at present nearly completed from St. Georges to the Delaware. The arrangements are prepared for an increase of force on the line, and suitable exertions are applied to complete their contract in June next.

The cost of this work in winter, is no loss to the stockholders, because the payment is for the cubic yard measured in the excavation whence the earth is removed; but there is a manifest advantage in prosecuting the work this winter, as the lock may be built at St. Georges next summer and thus the period for the receipt of tolls be expedited.

It now may be readily conceived, that if the above mentioned plan had been executed in the same successful manner in the favorable winter of 1824 and 1825, that the lock at St. Georges might have been built in 1825 instead of 1826. The prospect is now evident that by the judicious arrangements of the engineer and the present contractors, the whole line of the Canal will be completed at an earlier period than has been heretofore expected.

A FRIEND TO CANALS.

PUBLIC LANDS.

By a statement recently laid before Congress, it appears that the total quantity of land sold at the land offices in Ohio, from their institution to the 30th of June, 1825, is 7,602,193,64 acres, and the quantity of land surveyed, and remaining unsold is 7,630,838,36, making a total of land surveyed in that state of 15,233,032 acres

In Indiana, the total of land surveyed to the same period is 13,211,095 acres, of which 3,154,482,70 acres have been sold, and 10,056,612,30 remain unsold.

In Illinois, the total of land surveyed is stated at 21,669,818 acres; of which 1,192,519,84 acres have been sold, and 20,477,298,16 remain unsold.

In Missouri, the total quantity of land surveyed to the same period is 20,281,926 acres; of which 926,030 93 acres have been sold, and 19,355,07 remain unsold.

In Lousiana, the total quantity of land surveyed is given at 8,518,762 acres; of which 139,861,07 acres have been sold, and 3,378,900,93 remain unsold.

In the territory of Arkansas, the total quantity of land surveyed, betweeen the same periods, is 9,286,846 acres; of which 32,483,56 acres have been sold, and 9,254,362,44 remain unsold.

In Michigan territory, the total quantity surveyed is 4,532,133 acres; of which 247,902,72 acres have been sold, and 4,234,230,28 remain unsold.

In the states of Alabama and Mississippi, the total quantity of lands surveyed within the same periods, is 31,399,060 acres; of which 4,609,208,48 acres have been sold, and 26,789,860,52 remain unsold.

In Tallahassee, West Florida, 405,782 acres have been surveyed; of which 44,427,55 acres have been sold, and 361,354,45 remain unsold.

The aggregate of public lands surveyed within the above periods in all the states and territories is 119,533,463 acre; of which 17,949,160,49 acres have been sold, and 101,589,302,51 acres remain unsold.

FOREIGN.

From the United States Gazette, Feb. 20.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

By the arrival at this port of the Montezuma, Capt. West, we have received, through the politeness of Mr. Sanderson, of the Merchants Coffee House, London papers, to the 7th of January inclusive.

The London Courier of the 6th states that the intelligence from St. Petersburg, at length clears up all doubts as to the succession of Constantine to the imperial throne. It appears there did exist a formal document, signed by Constantine, by which he renounced, in favor of the archduke Nicholas his right to the crown.—When the news reached St. Petersburg, of the death of the Emperor Alexander, this document which had been signed and attested as triplicate, was opened and read: but Nicholas refused to act upon its conditions and instead of placing the crown on his own head, he, and after him the whole imperial family and the senate took the oath of fidelity to Constantine, who remained quietly at Warsaw. His presence in St. Petersburg was momentarily expected.

Greeks and Turks.—The only article upon this subject which we find, is the following extract from a private letter received and published at Vienna, Dec. 20, from Constantinople.—The most interesting news they contain is, that pretty warm disputes have lately taken place between the Reis Effendi and the British Charge d'Affairs relative to the affairs of the Peloponnesus. On the other hand, the Porte has received information that the Captain Pacha, as soon as he learnt that the Greek fleet, under Miaulis, had appeared near Missolonghi, hastened to leave the coast to avoid the battle which seemed to be imminent. This news has greatly displeased the Sultan, and it was generally believed that the Captain Pacha would be disgraced.

FROM HAVANA.—A passenger in the Milo, arrived last evening from Havana, informs, that the Governor was making preparations to defend the island against an expected attack from the Colombians. Six frigates, and other vessels, were to sail on the 15th inst. to intercept the Colombian fleet, should they make the attempt.

Phil. Gaz.

We learn from Captain Reeve, of the brig Spartan, from St. Barts, that two very heavy shocks of earthquake had been felt there, and at St. Kitts, Nevia and Antigua.—*N. York paper.*

From the British Press of Dec. 22.

THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER'S DEATH.—The following story appeared in the Morning Post respecting the death of the Emperor Alexander. We can hardly suppose that a story so serious in accusations would be put about without some foundation. We can see no hint of the kind however in the French papers, nor any confirmation of this report, though it will be seen that the French Secretary of Legation at Berlin has arrived at Paris:

About five years ago, the Grand Duke Constantine conspired against the authority and the life of his brother—The plan was destroyed, its object defeated, and its author pardoned; and all that ever reached the public was a confused knowledge that some regiments of Imperial Guards had shown symptoms of insubordination at or near St. Petersburg which had been promptly repressed.—Constantine was pardoned; but he was ordered to remain within the bounds of his vice royalty, and informed that as a further punishment, he should be cut off by a solemn will from his succession to the Crown, which the Emperor would leave to his younger brother Nicholas. With a view perhaps to preserve, or to regain his popularity with the army, Alexander then gave way, for a time, to the spirit of religious enthusiasm with which it longed to revenge the barbarities committed at Constantinople and in Moldavia on the Greeks and their common Patriarch; and in so doing he conceived that he took from the rebellious the weapon which had lately been turned against him. Firm and consistent only when unopposed, no sooner did Austria and the other members of the Holy Alliance hear of the intended project, than they worked upon his weakness, and by inducing him to check suddenly the ardour which he had lately encouraged, created in the minds of his soldiers, and even of his people, a disposition still more favorable to the designs of traitors than that of which they had previously availed themselves.

Things remained in this state of apparent order and security as long as Alexander was on his guard, and sojourned within those parts of his empire where his subjects felt the benefit of his kindness and his presence, and protected him with their gratitude and love. No sooner, however had he resolved on his distant expedition, and ventured to the seat where discontent and disaffection prevailed, than plans for his destruction were renewed. Whether the fatal will had been made and was to be set aside, which could easily be done by those who should succeed in taking an Emperor's life, or whether its execution was to be prevented, the author of the crime alone can tell; but his orders were issued, and have been too faithfully obeyed. The conspirators (who they were will be well known when the new imperial household is formed, and titles and places are bestowed) took every means to create in their intended victim the most unbounded confidence. All on his passage was contentment and happiness, and never in the centre of his capital and his guards had Alexander thought himself more secure, or more beloved. On his return from the Steppes of the Crimea and before he quitted Taganrog, a succession of fetes was given. In one of these a water party was formed on the sea of Azof, which laves the walls of the town. The conspirators contrived that the imperial boat should be manned entirely by themselves and their friends. The confident monarch embarked before a gazing population, and the boat rode gayly, with the shouts of thousands from the shore to fill its sails and to cheer its return. But when they sailed, and she was solitary on the waters, when no eye could see, and no ear could hear, with a struggle, or in calm despair, midst the curses of unmasking foes, or in deep silence, a mental voice alone thundering "Retribution;" the Autocrat of half a world was strangled.

The prediction of the London Courier, a ministerial paper, in the article which we copy below, seems to be fully realized in the course of opposition to the Panama mission.

From the London Courier.

We have received New-York, and other American papers to the 17th ult this morning. The most interesting portion of their contents is an official correspondence between the Colombian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the functionaries of other South American Republics, respecting the Grand Council of Representatives, who are to assemble at Panama. The United States have been invited to send a Minister; but it does not appear that any decision had been come to by the Cabinet of Washington upon the subject.—We should not be surprised to find the latter Government, in the plenitude of its republican dignity, declining an honor of so questionable a nature emanating from the younger branches of the democratic family of the New World. The United States have shown, on many occasions, that, notwithstanding their republican sentiments, and their occasional boasts of republican simplicity, there prevails no inconsiderable portion of that attachment to form and etiquette, which is supposed to belong only to the ancient monarchies of Europe. With this feeling, they will probably think that they ought to be placed at the head of any federative assembly, called together for purposes common to the political interests of North and South America. They may even shrink from an acquiescence which would seem to imply that they were incapable of defending their own independence against the imaginary aggressions on the part of Europe without acceding to this system of mutual support.

An account of the most recent diplomatic mission from the Governor General of Bengal to Siam and Cochin-China, was published in England in December. Mr. Crawfurd was the Envoy, and the writer of the narrative, surgeon and naturalist of the mission. It abounds with curious particulars. As an instance of the degradation of human nature, by servility, we know of nothing stronger than what is related in the following passage of the work, touching the Siamese:—*Nat. Gaz.*

"Mr. Crawfurd had a first interview with an inferior minister. During the whole of the visit, the minister's attendants lay prostrate on the earth before him, and at a distance. When they addressed, they did not dare to cast their eyes towards him, but raising their heads a little, and touching the forehead, with both hands united in the manner by which we would express the most earnest supplication, their looks still directed to the ground, they whispered in answer in the most humiliating tone. The manner in which he was approached by the servants of his household, was still more revolting to nature.—When refreshments were ordered, they crawled forward on all fours, supported on the elbow and toes, the body being dragged on the ground. In this manner they pushed the dishes before them; from time to time, in the best manner that their constrained and beastlike attitude would admit, until they had put them in their place; when they retreated backwards in the same grovelling manner, but without turning round. * * *

Yet this haughty chief was himself but a minister of the fifth order in importance, doomed to take his turn of beast like grovelling, as was subsequently exhibited on visiting Chromachit, son to the king. Every man here is doomed to crawl on the earth before his superior. The nation must be considered as entirely the slaves of the king, of whose lives, as well as property, he can dispose at will."

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