EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted, *is* the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown.—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—*Morality* refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all.

VOL. XXIII. EASTON, (MD.) SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 11, 1840. No. 3.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY *Saturday Morning*, BY **Alexander Graham.**

TERMS.

TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per annum, payable half yearly in advance

ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding a square inserted three times for ONE DOLLAR; and TWENTY-FIVE CENTS for every subsequent insertion.

[From the Boston Journal.]

LAWS IN THE OLDEN TIMES.

We have received from a friend the loan of a curious little book, published by Timothy Green, in Boston, in the year 1701, and said to have been prepared by Cotton Mather. It is an abstract of the criminal laws in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, at the commencement of the 18th centuary—to which is appended a sermon entitled 'The Reprover doing his duty.' The laws in those days were very strict, and the penalties were severe—and moreover, magistrates and constables conceived it to be their duty to *enforce the laws* as they stood on the Statute book. Some of the information contained in this volume may not prove uninteresting to our readers.

For *Profane Swearing*, the penalty was a fine of five shillings—or to be set in the stocks not exceeding two hours. For a repetition of it twelve pence for every oath or curse, or three hours in the stocks

Drunkenness.—The penalty was a fine of five shillings, for the use of the poor of the town, or be set in the stocks not exceeding three hours. A second conviction, the penalty aforesaid, and two sureties in ten pounds for good behavior—or to lie in the common jail until such sureties be found.

Theft.—A forfeit of treble the value of the goods stolen unto the owner—and either fining or whipping, at the discretion of the justice, not exceeding £5, or 20 stripes. If the offender be unable to make restitution, or pay treble damages, then he is to make satisfaction by service. The prosecutor may dispose of him in service, to any fellow-subjects, for such term as the Court shall assign.

Burglary and Highway Robbery.—Branding on the forhead with the letter B and treble damages. For a second conviction, sitting on the gallows for an hour, with a rope about the neck, and a severe scourging, not exceeding 39 stripes and treble damages. For their conviction—*death.*

Publishing a defamatory Lye or Libel, or false Reports with intent to deceive others.—A fine not exceeding 20 shillings, and sureties for good behavior. If unable to pay, to be set in the stocks, not exceeding three hours, or scourged at the discretion of the justice.

Forgery.—Double damages to the party aggrieved, and standing in the pillory, and having one ear cut off.

Perjury committed or subornedd.—A fine of £20, one moiety to the crown, the other to the person aggrieved—and imprisonment for 6 months. If the offender is unable to pay the fine, to stand in the pillory one hour, and have both ears nailed.

For selling strong drink without a license.—In less quantity than a quarter cask, all carried away at once, a fine of forty shillings—half to the informer, and half to the poor of the town

Brokers of the Peace, Profaners of the Sabbath, Unlawful Gamesters, Drunkards, Profane Swearers, or Cursers—may be punished by a Justice of the Peace, by setting them in the stocks, not exceeding three hours—or imprisonment for twenty hours—or by scourging, not exceeding three hours, as the case may deserve.

A reputed Tipler, mispending time and estate in public houses.—The names of such to be posted up in all public houses of the town, by the selectmen—and every keeper of such house, afterward suffering one of these to drink in their house or dependencies, to forfeit twenty shillings.

Blasphemy—Imprisonment: not exceeding six months—sitting in the pillory—scourging—boring the tongue with a red-hot iron—or sitting on the gallows with a rope about the neck—at discretion of the court.

Towns of fifty families, not being constantly provided with a schoolmaster to teach to read and write—and towns of 100 families not having a grammar-school-master, approved by the minister of the town, and two more neighboring ministers, with a certificate under their hands to pay a fine of twenty pounds per annum.

All that live idly, and have no ordinary, daily, lawful business to live by.—The Selectmen, or Overseers of the Poor, with the assent of two Justices, may set them at work at the work-house. And no single person under twenty-one years of age to be suffered to live at their own hand, but under some orderly government.

Such were the punishments in olden times—but such barbarous proceedings as sitting in the pillory, branding, scourging, cropping, nailing the ears, boring the tongue, etc. have long been discontinued in the New England States, and are no longer recognized by the laws. Rhode Island may be an exception in part—but there, public opinion is so strong against punishments of this discription, that it is very seldom that a criminal is scourged.

HOME.

The following conclusion of an article in the New York Star is in Maj. Noah's happiest vein—such articles have done more to establish his reputation than any other he has written.

When God created man in his own image, he intended to perpetuate that image by the institution of marriage throughout the world; he made it a religious tie, binding and obligatory; human laws only regulate the devine decree—no nation prohibits it. To say that we should use artificial means to avoid having children—because they may come to want or be subjected to trouble and calamity, violates the first laws of nature, and decries the bounty and protection of Devine Providence. He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, who causes the dew to fall, and the earth to bring forth its fruits, will provide for each created being; the place on earth left vacant by death is supplied by the birth of the living. Let man be only industrious and frugal—trust Providence for bread, and his children will not want. How many a married man has been saved from ruin—from being plunged into bad habits, wanton extravagance and debased pleasures by the sacred ties which bind him to his wife and children. How many unhappy dissensions have been reconciled between man and wife, through the powerful influence of attachment to their off-spring—how many crimes have been prevented by parents, from apprehension of entailing infamy on their children. When we see married persons unhappy, avoiding each other, and indulging in perpetual jars, how frequently do we trace the cause to their having no children. What can be more gratifying to the just pride of parents than seeing the tender flower their bed conubial grew,' unfolding its beauties, and throwing around them its rich perfumes; or in rearing the tender plant until it becomes a noble tree, watered by care and watchful attention? When in sickness who smoothes your pillow—whose hand presses more affectionately over your fevered brow than your child's? And when on the confines of eternity, whom do we unfold in our parting embrace and parting benediction more affectionately than our children? What can be more desolate than age sinking into the grave unmourned, solitary, and childless. How earnestly did our mothers in Israel pray to the Lord to take from them the curse of barrenness. And yet this woman comes into an innocent community—innocent of such crimes at least—with her philosophy and infidelity and unblushingly solicits our wives to purchase her nostrums, and be relieved at once from she pains and penalties of having a child to honor and cherish her.'

I never was more forcibly struck with the beautiful results of a well governed marriage, than on a recent occasion, in my own family. Among the anniversaries of joyful events and providental blessings, to be gratefully remembered and celebrated, first in importance is my wedding day—the day which, of all others, changes our relations in life.—My little ones always kept count of the arrival of that day as their jubilee; and in their holiday attire, with smiling jocund faces, they came, from school to offer their congratulations and celebrate the anniversary. One spoke a new piece; another had a new song; a third, some offering of a flower or some compliment; and when the whole six, with rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes surrounded the dinner table, and the boys arose with their glass of foaming champagne (an indulgence granted only once a year) to drink to the long life and continued happiness of their father and mother; and when looking on the comfort which surrounded them, their hale and hearty appearance, the well spread board, and the family party around it; who could desist from returning thanks to the Giver of all Good for his bountiful and manifold blessings, in having reflected these images, around us, in health, in happiness, and in comfor; and who afforded the means of giving them instruction and 'daily bread.'

CHOPPING OFF THE EAR OF A MAN.

The Sandusky (Ohio) Clarion says that a German named Miller, who lives in that vicinity, came into town, exhibiting with much satisfaction a part of a human ear, exclaiming 'I'se marked him,' and wanted to find a magistrate to have it recorded. On inquiry being made of him, he stated that he suspected a man by the name of Lemon of milking his cows, and watched him.—About 2 o'clock in the morning, he saw Lemon milk two or three cows belonging to some of our citizens, and afterwards commenced milking his (Miller's.) He crept cautiously up behind him, and severed his ear from his head before Lemon was aware of his approach.

'You've scrached my ear,' said Lemon.

'Ise cot your ear,' said Miller; and started off to find a magistrate to have the 'mark recorded.'

'But,' said the gentleman to whom he was communicating his exploit, 'do you know the consequence of what you have done?'

'Vy, pe shure he vill pe hung, as they toes in Chormany, ven a man shteals.'

'No, he will not be hung; but you are liable to be sent to the penitentiary for what you have done.'

On learning that so far from performing a meritorious act, he had committed a penitentiary offence, he became alarmed and offered Lemon to settle it; but the latter demanded $500. Lemon came and procured a warrant for Miller, but when the constable went in pursuit of him, he had fled, and has not yet been taken.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

SHORT BUT GOOD SAYINGS.

BY MR. ALLEN,

Editor of the Phrenological Journal.

Gentlemen:—Some months since, I sent you a few quotations from an ancient author, which you were pleased to publish under the head of "Short but good sayings." In accordance with the promise then made, I now transmit another collection of similar remarks. They are pithy and forcible, inasmuch as they tend to exhibit the nature of true happiness, and the great object of human existence. The following sayings, I have culled from an author of the last century.

Never force nature. When study becomes a burden, give it over for that time. You will not improve by it, if it goes against the grain.

It is not eating a great quantity of food that nourishes most: nor devouring of books, that gives solid knowledge. It is what you digest that feeds both body and mind. Have your learning in your head, and not in your library.

You had better find out one of your own weaknesses, than ten of your neighbor's.

To learn to talk well, learn first to hear

A clear conscience is better than a clear estate.

If you have a well disposed mind you will go into no company more agreeable, or more useful than your own. All is not well with those to whom solicitude is disagreeable.

If you have health, a competency, and a good conscience, what would you have besides? Something to disturb your happiness?

It is a shame, if any person poorer than you, is more contented than yourself

Strive to excel in what is truly noble. Mediocrity is contemptible.

To be drawn into a fault shews human frailty. To be habitually guilty of folly, shews a corrupt mind. To love vice in others is the spirit of a devil, rather than a man, being the pure, disinterested love of vice, for its own sake. Yet there are such characters.

To abuse the poor for his poverty, is to insult God's providence.

It is a pity that most people over-do either the active or contemplative part of life. To be continually immersed in business, is the way to become forgetful of every thing truly noble and liberal To be wholly engaged in study, is to lose a great part of the usefulness of a social nature. How much better would it be, if people would temper action and contemplation, and use action as a relief to study?

It is not easy to keep the mean between temporizing too much, and giving proper testimony for decency and virtue, when one sees them criticised.

It is in any man's power to be contented; of very few to be rich. The first will infallibly make you happy; which is more than you can depend upon from the latter.

SOMETHING SINGULAR.

The subjoined paragraph is from the Vicksburg Sentinel of the 14th inst. We had not been apprised of the position of Dr. Smith, nor of his various deposits with distant Banks and mercantile houses. Certainly the Marshal dicharged his duties with becoming spirit. Breaking open the vaults of a Bank, and taking therefrom a special deposite, was certainly entering in earnest upon the fulfilment of orders.

"We learn that Dr. Gwin, the State Marshal, made a grand haul of money belonging to the Brandon Bank levied on to pay a debt due Messrs. Dennistown & Co, of this city. He then proceeded to Jackson, and breaking open the vaults of the Planters' Bank, took $38,000 in specie—a special deposite made by Dr. Smith President of the Brandon Bank. He also broke open the trunks of Dr Smith, at the Verandah, in Vicksburg, and took $6000. U. S. Bank notes, the property of the Brandon Bank. He seized on several thousand dollars more at the store of Lawrence & Garr, in Vicksburg, property of the same; and sent a deputy to this city to secure $25,000 more, deposited in the name of Dr. Smith. No further particulars."

IMPROVEMENT.

We learn that "The Committee on Science and the Arts, constituted by the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania, for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, to whom was referred for examination, Doctor Edward Earle's Method of Preserving Timber," have made a report highly favorable to the patentee.

Having investigated the history of the various means, with their results, that have been employed at different times for this important purpose, and having instituted experiments to ascertain the effects of different mineral salts on the putrefactive constituents of timber, they have found the sulphates of iron and copper and corrosive sublimate the most powerful agents on these constituents; that the sulphates (which are the salts employed by Dr. Earle) act similarly and equally with corrosive sublimate, (extensively used in England) and that they are therefore to be considered as an excellent and economical substitute for that compound." By the same experiments the committee have ascertained the practicability of introducing these sulphates, by Dr. Earle's process so as effectually to imbue the interior of the largest timber.

This committee being composed of many of the most scientific members of the Institute, such as President A D. Bache, Messrs. Booth, Frazer, Peale, Merrick and others, may be regarded as our highest tribunal, and their decisions on subjects of science as entitled to commensurate weight and authority. To those who are interested in the construction of public works for which enduring timber is desirable, this report must be of great interest and importance.

We are gratified therefore in giving it publicity, and hope that the press will aid to make it generally known as a public benefit of which they may avail themselves by application to the patentee.

[Nat. Gazette.

[From the Delaware Gazette of Jan. 3.]

HORRIBLE MURDER.

The quiet of our peaceable city was again disturbed on Friday night last, by one of the most horrid murders that has ever occurred in this part of the country, the particulars of which are in substance as follows: A black man by the name of William Dillahunt, whilst laboring, as it is said, under the influence of MANIA A POTU between 11 and 12 o'clock, on Friday night, entered a small dwelling occupied by a colored family, named Green, in French street near Eighth, with a wood saw in his hand; and from his singular conduct, the two women, the only inmates of the building, except a small boy, about 5 years old—became alarmed, and succeeded in making their escape. Dillahunt then seized the boy, and with the saw inflicted several severe wounds upon his person. The back part of the skull was broken in, from which the brain escaped. Another extensive wound was made in the forehead, and another on the side of the neck. The child was then thrown out of the house on the pavement in the street, and when found by the neighbors, who had by this time become alarmed, was quite dead.—The depredator then passed on to another house near by, opened the door, and attacked the occupant, Thomas Connell a colored man; but the latter, after considerable struggling, and with the assistance of a neighbor, succeeded in arresting him, without having received any material injury in the conflict Dillahunt had a hearing before the Mayor on Saturday, after which he was committed for murder; and remanded to New Castle the same afternoon. When questioned, as to his motive in killing the child, he replied, we understand, that his intention was to kill the mother, for having circulated falsehoods about him, but that he was then sorry for having injured the child. His attack on Connell, was, he said, in consequence of the latter having cheated him out of a cent in market.—When examined before the Mayor, he appeared to be perfectly sane, but did not deny having committed the horrid deed. The child was the son of Frisby Green, a very respectable colored man, who has acted in the capacity of a waiter for several years.

[From the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.]

CONFESSION OF THE MURDERESS.

The wretched female named Phoebe Ann Simpson, who stands charged with the murder of John Floor on last Sunday week, by administering arsenic to him, was yesterday brought up for examination She was met in the police office by her father and mother, when a scene ensued which baffles all description. She fell on her knees before the Magistrate, and in all the agony of despair shrieked out I will confess all! I am indeed a murderer!!! She then, as if relieved from an oppressive burthen, became comparatively calm, and detailed all the circumstances of the horrid transaction.

She then went on to state that she had been married to Floor for about two years, that during that time he had neglected her, and had often kept company with other women, which had excited in her unconquerable jealousy; that she had till recently been living with her mother at Bergen, New Jersey, and had visited her birth place on Staten Island. That about a month since she came back to the city, and went to the house in Lewis street where apartments had been provided for her by Floor. She said that Floor never called on her but once at the house in Lewis street; that on last Tuesday week she called on Floor at his slaughter house, and asked him for some money with which to pay the house rent. Floor put her off with some short answer and gave her a half dollar. Aggrieved at this treatment she vowed revenge, and with the half dollar she on her way home stopped at a drug store in Oliver street and purchased some arsenic.

On the following Saturday she mixed the arsenic with a cake which she baked and took to Floor at the market. The rest is known.

The prisoner is about 25 years of age, and has rather an interesting countenance.

The New York Times states that Daniel Simonson, the father of the girl now in prison for poisoning Mr. Floor, the butcher, beat his wife on Monday night after returning to Bergen, N. J., from New York, where he had been attending the examination of his daughter. She sent for his father, an aged man, and upon his upbraiding him for his conduct, the son seized and throwing him on the floor, jumped upon his breast, and so severely injured him that he is not expected to survive. The son was committed to jail at Hackensack.

CONGRESS.

The following resolution, offered in Senate on Friday the 27th ultimo, by Mr. Benton, was laid over and ordered to be printed.

Resolved. That there is nothing in the Constitution of the United States which can authorize the Legislative power of the Union to assume the debts of the States which have been contracted for local objects and State purposes.

2. That the assumption of such debts, either openly, by a direct promise to pay them, or disguisedly, by going security for their payment, or by creating surplus revenue, or applying the national funds to pay them, would be a gross and flagrant violation of the Constitution; wholly unwarranted by the letter or spirit of that instrument, and utterly repugnant to all the objects and purposes for which the Federal Union was formed.

3. That, besides its flagrant unconstitutionality, such assumption would be unjust, unwise, impolitic, and dangerous, compelling the non indebted States to incur burdens for others which they have refused to incur for themselves diverting the national funds from national objects to States objects—and thereby creating a necessity for loans and taxes, or issues of Federal paper money, to supply the place of the funds so diverted—prostrating the barriers of economy, moderation, and safety, in the creation of State debts, or separating the function of contractor from that of payer of the debt—extinguishing the sense of responsibility in the contractor, and making the Federal Government the ultimate payer of all the obligations contracted by the States for their own purposes—establishing a dangerous precedent, which must soon be followed up by new debts on the part of the States, and new assumptions on the part of the Federal Government—invading the rights and mortgaging the property of posterity, and loading unborn generations with debts not their own—creating a new national debt of large amount at the start, and of a nature to perpetuate its own existence—beginning a spirit in Congress which must constantly cater for distributions, by preventing necessary appropriations, and keeping up unnecessary taxes—laying the foundation for a new and excessive tariff of duties on foreign imports, to fall unequally on different parts of the Union, and most heavily on the planting, grain growing, and provision-raising States, to their manifest injury, and probable great discontent—involving disastrous consequences, either to the Union itself, or to its measures, as tending to the consolidation of the States, and their ultimate abject dependence on the Federal head as the fountain of their supplies; our tending to the annihilation of the Federal head itself, by stripping it of all its means of natural defence and self support, and reducing it to the helpless imbecility of the old Confederation—giving a new impulse to the delusive career of the paper system, already in a state of dangerous overaction—insuring the establishment of another National Bank—and, finally, begetting a passion for periodical distributions of land and money, and expensions of Federal credit, which would find no limit to its demands until the national domain was exhausted, the Federal Treasury emptied, and the credit of the Union reduced to contempt.

4 That the debts of the States, being chiefly held by foreigners, and constituting a stock in foreign markets, now greatly depreciated, any legislative attempt to obtain the assumption or securityship of the United States for their payment out of the national funds, must have the effect of enhancing the value of that stock to the amount of great many millions of dollars, to the enormous and undue advantage of foreign capitalists, and of jobbers and gamblers in stocks; thereby holding out inducements to foreigners to interfere in our affairs; and to bring all the influences of a moneyed power to operate upon public opinion, upon our elections, and upon State and Federal legislation, to produce a consummation so tempting to their cupidity, and so profitable to their interest.

5. That foreign interference and foreign influence, in all ages, has been the bane and curse of free Governments, and that such interference and influence is far more dangerous in the insidious intervention of the moneyed power, than in the forcible invasions of fleets and armies.

6. That to close the door at once against all applications for such assumption, and to arrest at their source the vast tide of evils which would flow from it, it is necessary that the constituted authorities, without delay, shall *resolve* and *declare* their utter opposition to the proposal contained in the late London Bankers' Circular in relation to State debts, contracted for local and State purposes, and recommending to the Congress of the United States to assume, or guaranty, or provide for, the ultimate payment of said debts.

From the Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.

In the House of Representatives today, an hour was exhausted during the morning, in an effort to amend the Journal so as to get off of it the resolution Mr. Duncan, of Ohio offered yesterday, requiring the Speaker to swear in the New Jersey democrats, who ask seats. It was not successful.

Mr. Coles, of Va. offered a resolution to lay all petitions, &c. on the subject of abolition of slavery, the slave trade, &c., on the table, without reading, referring &c. He asked for a suspension of the rules, but the House refused by a vote of ayes 87, noes 84, to suspend. It required a majority of two-thirds.

Mr. Wise asked that the resolution he offered yesterday on the same subject, be taken up. This resolution refuses to receive abolition petitions at all. The House refused to take it up by ayes 87, noes 89.

Mr. Chilton, of Louisana, now moved a resolution to refer all abolition papers to a Select Committee, and asked for a suspension of the Rules. The House refused by a vote of ayes 112, noes 66. Not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Mr. Sergeant, of Pennsylvania, moved a resolution to alter the 20th Rule of the the House, so as to extend the time offering petitions to 30 days from this date.

On this proposition a debate ensued, which is now going on.

In the Senate, the Rev. George G. Cookman, a most estimable and worthy clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was elected Chaplain. The choice of the Senate could not have fallen on a better man.

A bill for the punishment of crimes against the U. S. was passed to its third reading, and ordered to be engrossed.

A bill for the establishment of a board of claims, was read a second time, and made the order of the day for next Wednesday.

The Senate then went into an executive session, and afterwards adjourned till next Friday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

December 31, 1839.

Mr. Kempshall, of New York appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

The following gentlemen were announced as having been appointed by the Speaker to compose the Standing Committees of the House:

Public Expenditures.—Messrs. Briggs, of Mass. Smith of Me., Bond of O.; Rariden, of Ia. Duncan, of O., Crockett of Tenn., Bell of Va. Watterson, of Ten.; M. Carlton, of Ga.

Revolutionary Pensions.—Messrs. Talcott, of Va.; Carr, of Ia., Andrews, of Ky., Severnd, of Ga.; Rayner of N. C. Ed. Davies, of Penn.; Brockway; of Conn. Taylor of Ohio; Hand, of New York.

Naval Affairs.—Messrs. Thomas of Md. Reed, Holmes of S. C., King, Grennell Anderson, Robinson, and Profilt.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Keim, Carter, Griffin, Wise, Thomas of Md., Goode, Rodgers Triplett and Ridgeway.

Indian Affairs.—Messrs. Bell, Lewis Williams, Alford Cross, Chinn, Shepard, Lucas and Hand.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Cave Johnson, Thompson, of S. C., Miller, Coles, Reynolds, Aiken, Munroe, Sumpter and Gorgins.

Ways and Means.—Messrs. Jones of Va. Biddle, Everett, Lawrence, Rhett, Vanderpoel, Evans, Conner, and Cooper of Ga.

On Commerce.—Messrs Curtis, Hallen, White, Hatter, Toland, Habersham, Parris, Pitts, Weller and Betts.

On Elections.—Messrs. Campbell, Rives, Fillmore, Crabb, Brown, Fisher, Smith of Conn. and Botts.

On Judiciary.—Messrs. Sergeant, Cravy, Hoffman, Torney, Mason, Colquit, Storrs and Bond.

Expenditures in Department of State.—Messrs. Underwood, Bynum, Crabb, Lowell and Trumbull.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc2940_scm11031-0707.jpg