that interesting occasion, would my public duties permit.

The necessity of a change of measures with a view to the relief of a people suffering beyond any former example, is now manifest to all, if not acknowledged by all. No small portion of those who aided in bringing into power the present incumbent of the Executive chair, have witnessed with painful disappointment the pertinacity with which he has persevered in forcing upon the country a system of measures destructive of its best interests and ruinous to the enterprise and business of the people: And they have resolved, as the only means left of staying the progress of these measures, to aid in calling from retirement a distinguished citizen, whose enlightened patriotism, great practical wisdom and sound republican principles have secured for him the highest respect & confidence. The name of Harrison has animated the whole country with hope. It has roused an enthusiasm which pervades all grades and classes of the people. That enthusiasm, chastened by wise counsels and hallowed by patriotism will be the animating principle of the National Convention."

Reflecting, as its members will, the principles and feelings of the great majority of the people throughout the Union, their deliberations, will be no less national in their character than patriotic in their design; and will tend, it is confidently believed, to harmonize and invigorate the efforts of the nation to place the Executive government in the hands of one who has never yet disappointed the expectations of his country. He who, by his bravery in the field, redeemed the honor of the nation when betrayed by treachery and cowardice, will not fail to correct by his wisdom and prudence the errors of the Government under which the country is severely suffering.

Thanking "the Delegates from the city of Baltimore" for their gratifying invitation, and you, gentlemen, for the acceptable terms in which it is conveyed, I have the honor to be, with sincere regard,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN RUGGLES.

To Nielson Poe, Esq and others.

A TRICK OF WAR.

A correspondent of the Knickerbocker in a well written article, mentions that during the late war with Great Britain, he accidentally got possession of some of the signals of the British Navy which he put in the hands of Commodore Rodgers—and he thus concludes the account:

"Soon after the peace, dining with Commodore Rodgers, at his house in Washington, he related to me the following circumstances, which I give nearly in his own words:

'I acknowledged the receipt of your letter he continued, 'and was determined to have the signals made on board and try the experiment, none of my officers knowing for what purpose they were intended. I cruised for some time without meeting an enemy, until one afternoon we fell in with a schooner some six or eight miles to windward of us. We hoisted the British ensign which she answered by displaying another, and at the same time a signal at her main-top-gallant mast head, which I discovered was like one of them you had given me. From the list of English frigates, I selected the number of the "Sea Horse," one of the largest class and known to be on our coast, and hoisted it. She bore down at once and come under our stern; I ordered her to heave to and I would send a boat on board of her.

This order was obeyed, and I despatched a lieutenant to bring her signal book; enjoining on him and the crew, the strictest secrecy respecting our character. He was politely received by the captain, whose schooner proved to be the 'High flyer." Our lieutenant's coat attracted his first attention, not being of the latest London fashion, although the crown and anchor was on the button, but casting his eyes on the frigate seeing the British ensign, and now and then the red coat of a Marine appearing above the hammock netting, his mind was apparently at rest

The Lieutenant informed him that he was requested to bring his signal book on board the 'Sea Horse," in order to have some alterations made, as there was a rumour that the Yankees had possession of something like the signals, and it was therefore necessary to change the numbers. This ruse had the desired effect, and our lieutenant returned with the book which placed me in command of the whole correspondence of the British Navy. I then sent the gig for the captain requesting him to come on board, and bring any despatches he might have in charge.

On reaching our deck, he seemed surprised at the size of the vessel, praised her cleanliness, and the order in which every thing appeared; admired the new red coats of the Marines, and on being invited into the cabin, handed me a bundle of despatches for Admiral Warren, who he observed, must be within forty miles to leeward. I ordered refreshments, and in company with several of my officers we entered into general conversation.

I asked him what object Admiral Warren had in cruizing in that neighborhood? He said, to intercept the American privateers & merchantmen, but particularly to catch Commodore Rodgers, who he understood had command of one of the largest and fastest sailing frigates in the American Navy. I inquired if he knew what kind of a man this Rodgers was, and if ever he had seen him? He said no: but that he had understood he was an odd character, and devilish hard to catch.—After conversing with him on several other subjects, I abruptly put this question to him.

'Sir, do you know what ship you are on board of, sir?"

'Why, yes, sir,' he replied; 'on board his majesty's ship Sea Horse."

'Then sir, you labor under a great mistake. *You are on board the United States frigate President, and I am Commodore Rodgers at your service.*'

'The dying dolphin never assumed a greater variety of colours than did this poor fellows face. 'Sir, said he, you are disposed to be humorous, and must be joking.' I assured him it was no joke; and to satisfy him on that head, handed him my commission. At the same moment the band struck up Yankee Doodle, on our quarter deck; on reaching which, he saw the American ensign flying, the red coats of the Marines turned blue, and the crown and anchor button metamorphosed into the eagles

'This affair,' observed the Commodore 'was of immense importance to the country. We obtained in full, the British signals; the operations of Admiral Warren by the non receipt of his despatches were destroyed for the season; and it probably saved the frigate, for the course I was running, at the time of my falling in with the Highflyer, would have brought me in the midst of his fleet during night.'

C. B.

New York, March 1840.

THE WAY LAWYERS USE FEMALES.—I instituted an action for a large amount, in the county of ——. The suit was brought upon a plain promissory note, which I was assured was founded upon good consideration, and I was curious to know what defence could be set up. I was aware that I had to deal with a wily adversary; and when I offered my note in evidence, and closed my case, I was more terrified than surprised when I heard him direct the sheriff to call Mrs. Mary Jackson. The witness appeared. To my horror, she was a perfect beauty; possessing a sweet countenance, with an exquisite form. I saw at once that my antagonist had formed the same judgment of human nature that I had, and that he was about to make the experiment of washing away the obligation of a note of hand by the tears of a female witness. I knew that nothing but a desperate effort would save my client and that her testimony must be excluded before she had time to cry.

I rose at once,

'I perceive," said I, addressing the court, "that this lady bears the same name with the defendant; I therefore respectfully request that she be placed on the *voir dire*."

This was done.

"Will you be kind enough to say, madam, what relation you are to the defendant?

"Sir," answered she, applying a beautifully embroidered handkerchief to her eyes, "I am his injured wife!'

"Then, of course, your honor, the lady's testimony is inadmissible."

"Oh, very well," interposed my adversary:—"you wish to keep the truth from the jury do you? Gentlemen of the jury you see what technicalities are resorted to, to procure a verdict against my client. I hope you will appreciate it, gentlemen."

By this time the lady was a beautiful representation of Rachel of old; and one glance at the jury was sufficient to convince me that my case was ruined, I turned to my client—"You are gone, my friend, said I "Gone," said he, "gone! my dear sir; don't give up my suit so coolly. I shall be a beggar, if I lose this case; and then what will become of my wife and my poor daughters?"

"Oh, you have daughters, have you? Run and bring them my dear friend. If they mine, we must countermine. Bring them, one and all."

My client rushed out, and as he lived but next door he almost instantly returned, with a half dozen of as pretty girls as could be found any where. My antagonist's face fell to zero.

"May it please your honor,' I began, I desire to offer some rebutting testimony."

"Rebutting testimony, Mr. C——: why, your adversary has not been permitted to examine its witness. What have you to rebut?

"A great deal, your honor. The witness *has* given some testimony. She called herself the *injured* wife of the defendant. Injured by *whom*? By my client. Injured how? By procuring this note, the subject matter of this suit, from him. Now, sir, I wish to answer the *afflicted* daughters of the plaintiff, against the *injured* wife of the defendant,"

Here my fair witnesses commenced weeping bitterly, while several of the jury looked on with evident commisseration. My triumph was complete; but I determined to pay off my legal friend in his own coin.

"I do not seek sir," continued I, "to take up the time of this court and jury, by administering the oath to ALL these witnesses. I am afraid their heart-rending description of this nefarious transaction, (of which they knew not a syllable,) would unman us all; and your honor and this intelligent jury would be tempted to inflict summary justice upon the base wretch, who, with a heart like Caligula, & a spirit like Nero, could attempt to doom to a life of beggary, of shame, and perhaps of infamy the beautiful offspring of my unhappy, my too credulous, too confiding client. Sir, in a spirit of liberal compromise, I will swear but *three* of them.

Here then ensued a low burst of anguish from the daughters, and corresponding and prolonged excitement of the jury. My legal friend saw that I had somewhat out generalled him, and so he said—

"C——, stop your nonsense, and take your verdict!"

Of course I did so; but to show my knowledge of *jury nature*, I add that as the foreman passed me he said—

"I am rejoiced that you have gained your suit, but before you offered to swear those witnesses, your case was a *very dark one*.—[Knickerbocker.

THE TORNADO AT NATCHEZ.

From the N. Orleans Picayune, May 10.

The Tornado at Natchez.—This disastrous visitation from the sky has left a train of destruction behind it most lamentable and melancholy to think of. So destructive, so terrific, so appalling a disaster from the enraged wind has never been known before—cannot be found on record. Tornadoes and hurricanes have been known before, but they have generally occurred in regions untenanted by man, and we have only heard of the forest being prostrated and the earth ploughed up the howling storm; but here is a city destroyed and hundreds of our fellow beings swept away into eternity. We give here a letter received yesterday from a friend in Natchez. He gives a vivid picture of the desolate and unfortunate city.

NATCHEZ, Thursday, 5 P.M. May 7.

To the Editors of the Daily Picayune:—By the steamboat Meteor I hasten to acquaint you with one of the most horrid and destructive hurricanes that ever happened in the United States. While nearly the whole of our city were engaged in diming at the hour of two this afternoon, vivid flashed the lightning, loud roared the thunder, and black grew the sky. In a few minutes the tempest came, and for about forty minutes we were in that perilous state which speaks only of destruction and death. First toppled down the chimneys, then went the roofs of houses, and a moment after house after house fell into ruins. In the hurry of this letter I cannot begin to particularize the death and damage around me. 'Natchez under the hill' is entirely swept away, and the loveliest part of the South on the Bluff above, is wreck and ruin; and those yet living will find difficulty upon difficulty in getting shelter to night. My heart sickens at the scenes before me. As I walked to the boat from which I write, the dead and wounded met me every twenty steps.—Natchez is ruined, ruined, ruined. Yours, truly.

In addition to the above we have gathered the following particulars. The steamboat St. Lawrence went down. It is said she was lifted many feet out of the water and instantly dashed to the bottom of the river with every soul on board.—The enormous body of water now rolling in the Mississippi and swelling to the very topmost limits of its banks, was lashed into foaming billows, and flatboats were torn to pieces and their scattered planks flew about in the wind like feathers. The lady of Mr. Halliday, one of the proprietors of the Free Trader, was saved by a miracle, with her young child in her arms. Every church and every public building shared in the ruin. Steeples were dashed to the earth and houses all over town were unroofed.

The steamboat Prairie is now lying at our wharf torn to pieces—'blown up' by the wind worse than ever a boat was blown up by steam. The hull and machinery is all that is left of her. Her cabin was carried away, floor and all.—The wheelhouses were uncoiled, and what remains of the boat is rent and shattered in an awful manner. Among the sufferers on board the Prairie was Emanuel Blanc an estimable young man of this city, but Captain Freligh cannot estimate how many persons were lost from his boat.—Himself and Mr. James Wilson the clerk, narrowly escaped.

From an extra, issued from the shattered office of the Free Trader, we learn that a public meeting has been held by the citizens in the court house, at which Col. James C. Wilkins presided and F L. Claiborne, Esq. was secretary. Addresses were delivered by J. M. Hewitt & J. M Duffield Esqrs., and resolutions offered by the latter gentleman and others, appointing relief committees &c.

The City Hotel, through the kindness, of the proprietor, Noah Barlow, Esq. has been thrown open to the wounded. Doctor Pollard has taken the Tremont House for an additional hospital, S. Duncan, Esq. having generously offered to be responsible for the rent.

From the ruins of the Steamboat Hotel, Mr. Alexander, the landlord, his lady and bar keeper, were dug out alive, as also Timothy Flint the historian and geographer, and his son from Natchitoches, La., besides Doctor Taliafero and many others. Mrs. Alexander is considered dangerously injured, two of her children were killed in her arms. As many as nine dead bodies have been dug from the Steamboat Hotel.

The number of burials which took place on the 8th inst. was about fifty, and many are still in a dangerous and dying condition.

From an estimate made by Mr. Ruffner and S. J. Boyd, Esq. the total loss is supposed to be about $1 200.000.

The neighboring planters are generously sending in large gangs of slaves to assist in clearing the streets and digging the dead from the ruins.

The greatest loss of life was among the flatboats, which were swamped and destroyed before the unfortunate men could escape to the shore. One paper states that upwards of 200 were lost. A boy is said to have been taken up in the air and lodged in a tree half a mile from his father's house.

The citizens of Concordia and Madison have held a public meeting and adopted measures for the relief of their friends in Natchez. This awful calamity has created a sensation here in New Orleans that will not soon be forgotten.

FLOOD IN THE MISSISSIPPI.

A gentleman who left New Orleans on the 1st May and descended the river to Cincinnati, gives to the editor of the Chronicle a melancholy account of the flood in the Mississippi. The steamboat Gen. Brown in which he travelled, met the heavy rise just below Memphis; between that and the mouth of the Ohio, the whole country was inundated. Cattle were crowding on to mounds, rafts and flat boats—and the inhabitants were gathered into the upper stories of buildings, and viewing with despondence the general destruction of crops, cattle and other property. Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio, was wholly under water, so much so that the steamboats sent their yawls over the Levee direct to the steps of the Hotel, and to the stores along the streets. There were several old flat boatmen and pilots, passengers on the Gen. Brown, who express their opinion that the recent great flood in the Ohio, joined to the rise in all the streams below, must inundate New Orleans and the whole lower country.

The Vicksburg Sentinel of the 2d inst states that several wharehouses at the landing have been abandoned, owing to the rise of the river. The editor says—"We may now, to almost a certainty, predict an overflow as great, if not greater, than the memorable flood of 1828."

The New Orleans Bulletin of the 7th says that the river continues on the rise.

The Natchez Free Trader of the 4th says:—"The river, as viewed from the Bluffs, with the noble steamers plying in either direction, the numberless boats freighted with the productions of the West, destined to the "Crescent City," and the numerous plantations opposite, threatened with inundation, present an imposing spectacle."

Very Mysterious.—The Portland Advertiser of Friday of last week, contains an extract of a letter from an officer on board the United States ship Levant, dated Pensacola Bay, 22d ult. which states that the ship was unexpectedly ordered to sea, and would sail that afternoon on a short cruise of six weeks, or two months at the utmost. As to the cause of the sudden move all was conjecture; but that it was occasioned by some important news could not be doubted, as a Naval Court Martial was adjourned in the midst of its sitting, to enable the captain and first lieutenant of the Levant to go to sea in her. Two days previously, they were laying in provisions for a four months' cruise down the Gulf, but these orders being received, the stores were completed for two months only. The letter adds: "Some say, we are to chase a 'long, low, black schooner' —others, that we are to look after an English frigate that was firing guns off the harbor a day or two since—a third party say we are to settle some difficulty at St. Johns, (Porto Rico,) while the fourth sends us down the Gulf after the Texians and Mexicans."

Arrival of Mr. Price.—The ship Garrick, from Liverpool, arrived at New York on Thursday night. Among her passengers is Wm. M. Price, the reputed defaulting United States District Attorney!

The following paragraphs, in relation to this "event," are from New York papers of yesterday evening:

From the New York American.

Among the passengers in the packet ship Garrick, arrived last evening, is Wm. M. Price and family.

Mr. Price, the United States District Attorney, it will be remembered, disappeared, without notice, one fine morning in December, 1838, leaving behind him a letter to the President, unequalled for its coolness, in which he relinquished office for conscience sake, and added that any apparent balance against him in his accounts, would be more than squared if allowances for sums properly due to him were made.

Since that time, he has been published and republished as a defaulter. He now returns, to all appearances voluntarily: but whether under stipulations of any sort from the Government, that he shall not be molested, and, if so, what may be the consideration for such stipulation, remains as yet, a profound secret.

From the New York Express.

Mr. Price.—Few men could land on our shores of greater notoriety. Since his departure, there is not a press in this country that has not mentioned his name in a variety of ways. It was declared by many that he would never return.—Yesterday, however, he landed at White Hall, with his wife and flock of little ones. He never looked better, nor appeared in finer spirits. He has returned to meet his accusers face to face, and invites the most rigid scrutiny. He declares he does not owe the Government a penny!

From the Maryland Republican.

HARRISON AND PERRY.

The more the life of Harrison is investigated, the brighter does it become The page history has recorded the events that fill up the mead of his glory, and exhibits clearly that he is a good and faithful servant of the Republic. Both his civil and military career is before us without a blur, embleming the father of his country in a pure and unsullied name, in honesty of heart, and warm devotion to his country's glory. He has been the servant of his country from youth to hoary age, and a more faithful, trust-worthy, honorable man, she never had in her service. He has been her untiring and unwavering friend whenever her voice called him to her support, and on his mighty arm has she leaned in many a struggle, with honor and renown.

The lamented Perry, the hero of Lake Erie, attributed the success of our arms upon that memorable occasion, to the conduct of Harrison; magnanimous as brave, he acknowledged the important services he had received, he cherished them in his heart of hearts, and dying, loved the Hero of the Thames.

By a reference to Niles' Register, 5th volume, page 263, the following is to be found:

"HARRISON AND PERRY.—In the signal victories gained over Barclay's fleet, and Proctor's army, it is impossible to separate the brave and victorous commanders. Perry, and Harrison. The circumstances are very striking. Harrison sent reinforcements to assist Perry and the action terminated in the capture of the whole British fleet. In return Com. Perry volunteered with Harrison, and assisted him in the capture of the British army. In the following letter Perry does justice to the zeal of Harrison and his gallant soldiers.'

"U. S. SCH'R. ARIEL, Sep. 15, 1813.

"*Sir*,—The very great assistance, in the action of the 10th inst., derived from those men you were pleased to send on board the squadron, renders it a duty to return you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement. In fact, sir, I may say, *without those men, the victory could not have been achieved*, and equally to assure you, that those officers and men behaved as became good soldiers and seamen. Those who were under my immediate observation, evinced great ardor and bravery. Capt. Brevort, of the 2d regiment of infantry, serving on board the Niagara, I beg leave to recommend particularly to your notice. He is a brave and gallant officer. and as far I am capable of judging, an excellent one. I am convinced you will present the merit of this officer to the view of the honorable Secretary of War, as I shall to the honorable Secretary of the Navy.

Very respectfully, I am, sir,
Your obedient servant,
OLIVER H. PERRY.

Major. Gen. W. H. HARRISON, Commander-in-Chief of the N. W. Army."

AN ADMIRER OF HARRISON.

READER! LOOK HERE.

From the Baltimore (Van Buren) Republican, May 13.

GREAT MEETING.—A great meeting of the States' Rights party, and of the friends of the Administration, was held in Charleston on Thursday evening last Henry L. Pinckney, Esq, Mayor, presided; and S. M. Walker and Wm. D. Porter acted as Secretaries. A committee, of which Col. Memminger was chairman, was appointed to prepare an address: and while they were engaged in it, the President being called upon, addressed the meeting for some time, after which the address was reported, read and agreed to. It concludes with set resolutions, expressing confidence in the Administration, and approving of the Sub-Treasury measure. Col. Memminger, Col. F. H. Elmore and the Hon. J. S. Rhett addressed the meeting.

This meeting receives the following notice from the Charleston Courier.

The Administration Meeting.—This meeting, of which an account will be found in our columns this morning, was a very numerous one, uniting men of both the old parties which divided the State, and indicating that opposition to the present Administration will scarcely make any headway in either the city or state. The character of the proceedings, and especially of the speeches made on the occasion, deny us the power of approval. The anti-bank spirit was rife and fierce, and the financial or sub-treasury policy of the administration made the party test, necessarily throwing out of the pale such as may have been disposed to adhere to the administration on other grounds. Another subject of regret is THAT IN SPITE OF THE REPEATED DEMONSTRATIONS BEFORE THE PUBLIC OF GEN. HARRISON'S SOUNDNESS, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY TO RAISE AN UNJUST CLAMOUR AGAINST HIM ON THE SUBJECT OF ABOLITION. Surely Mr. Van Buren's noble stand on the constitution in favor of southern rights, both before and after his election, the anti-tariff, anti internal improvement, and (we are sorry to add) anti-bank policy of his administration, furnish grounds for his cordial support by the dominant party in this State, ample enough to have SPARED THE INFLICTION OF SUCH INJUSTICE ON A VETERAN AND PATRIOT, WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT THE BATTLES OF HIS COUNTRY, PERFORMED A LONG TOUR OF HONORABLE CIVIL SERVICE, SUFFERED POLITICAL MARTYRDOM IN THE CAUSE OF THE SOUTH, AND SO FAR FROM BEING AN ABOLITIONIST, OR ALLIED WITH ABOLITIONISTS, HAS BOTH DENOUNCED AND BEEN DENOUNCED BY THEM, and has even publicly declared in no less than two speeches made before large audiences, that it is not only pernicious and criminal, but unconstitutional even to discuss the question of Abolition in a non slaveholding State. For our part, we rejoice that both candidates for Presidency are foes to the abolitionists, and let either be elected so far as the Chief Magistracy is concerned, the shield of the constitution will be thrown around the rights of the south.—We had indulged the hope that political warfare in South Carolina would have been marked by a more generous spirit.

[We copy the above to show what an Administration print—one of the most violent and vindictive—admits into its columns in favor of the veteran Hero and Statesman, Gen. Harrison, the People's Candidate for the Presidency. All that is said of him by his friends, is here fully admitted, proclaimed and published, by one of his rankest opponents. After this, let calumny, misrepresentation and falsehood cease!]—Balt. Pat.

A SHORT ARGUMENT

"Reduce our nominal prices to the real standard of prices throughout the world, and you cover the country with blessings and benefits."—*Mr. Buchanan's Speech on the Sub-Treasury.*

This short extract embraces the whole question.—The argument is this: As all that man eats, drinks and wears, enter into the price of labor, it is necessary to reduce the value of the products of soil, that the price of labor may be also reduced: For if a mechanic receive only 25, 50, or 75 cents a day for his labor, he would starve unless he could buy the necessaries of life with his wages. It may be said, therefore, that the value of bread, meat, vegetables, coffee, tea, and sugar, which the manufacturer consumes enters into the price of every piece of cloth, or other product of the manufactory and work-shop, which we wear or use. Now, it is of some little consequence to the American People whether we encourage our own culuvators of the soil, or those of another country. If the American mechanic does not labor for the same price that the European mechanic labors for, then our manufactories and work-shops are to be broken up, according to the doctrine and policy of the Administration; and we shall be paying for the produce of the soil of other countries, by being forced to buy and use the products of their looms and workshops. To avoid this, say our rulers, the price of labor must come down, so that we can enter into competition with England, Germany, and France, and thus create a market at home for the produce of the soil, or we shall be forced to transport it to a foreign market, & sell it at foreign prices. This, then, fixes the value of both labor and provisions of all kinds. We must bring them down to the "*standard of prices* THROUGHOUT THE WORLD," or we have no demand for our surplus produce or labor. This is the way our rulers propose to "cover the country with blessings!" Instead of this, let them give protection to the productive industry of the country, and prices will regulate themselves.

Farmers! Mechanics! Laborers! Have we not stated the argument fairly? Examine it carefully, and if you can pick any flaw in it, do so candidly and in the spirit of free inquiry, and we will sit down and reason together about it, if you are convinced that we have stated the case as it is, then join us in putting things straight, for they are now wrong. "*By their fruits ye shall know them.*"

[*Ohio State Journal.*

Questions for the Post Master General.—Mr. Kendall says in his letter, that he has "not been fortunate enough to accumulate wealth in a public office."—We have a different impression, which, if erroneous, we should be pleased to have corrected, and we therefore, being humble searches after truth, respectfully inquire if Col. Allen, a mail contractor, has not been travelling through Illinois and other parts of the West, purchasing farms for the head of the Post Office Department—what the said high functionary would take for a certain farm bought by his agent of Mr. Wm. L. May, of Illinois?—and finally, whether he would consider $300,000 a fair equivalent for his share in the profits of the Mississippi Land Company?—[N. Y. Times.

The Laughlin Fund.—Several papers in different parts of the country having given erroneous statements relative to the amount collected under the resolution of the Convention for the benefit of the bereaved family of Thomas H. Laughlin, the following letter from John V. L. McMahon, Esq President of the Convention, is designed to do away all wrong impressions on the subject, and to give correct information respecting the amount actually received. It may be that collections abroad among the different delegations have been prosecuted with the less zeal on account of the belief that a large sum had been already paid in. The States of Massachusetts and Virginia it will be seen have contributed most largely to the fund:

To the Editors of the American:

Baltimore, May 18, 1840.

Gentlemen:—My attention has recently been directed to statements in several foreign newspapers calculated to produce erroneous impressions as to the amount of the contributions for the relief of the family of the late Thomas H. Laughlin, received by me under the Resolution of the National Convention.

It was & is my purpose, to publish (when the collections are completed) a detailed account of the contributions, specifying each receipt, and the person, persons, or delegation on whose behalf the same was received. But it has occurred to me that my silence, under the statements referred to, might be considered as giving credence to them, and might in some measure defeat the objects of that Resolution, by producing the impression that the amount already received was sufficient to accomplish those objects.

I must therefore anticipate that statement, by informing the members of the Convention, that the contributions from all quarters for the relief of that unfortunate family, which I have received, amount in the whole only to the sum of $2,430 and 12 1-2 cents; of which sum $1000 was received from the State of Massachusetts, and nearly $500 from the State of Virginia. It may be proper also to add, that this statement does not include the contributions from the citizens of Baltimore, or their delegates to the Convention, which are now being made, but of which no return has yet been received.

The editors of the newspapers of this city and of those throughout the United States friendly to the objects of the above mentioned Resolution, will be pleased to publish this statement.

JOHN V. L. McMAHON.

From a statement just published, it appears that the number of inhabitants of Washington city at different periods, were as follows:

Year.	White.	Slaves.	F. Color'd.	Total.
In 1800	2,464	624	123	3,210
In 1803	3 412	717	923	4,352
In 1807	4,198	994	500	5,692
In 1810	6,292	1,436	892	8,620
In 1820	9,606	1,945	1,696	13,247
In 1830	13,379	2,319	3,139	18,837
In 1840 estimated,				24,500

The whole number of dwelling houses 3,954, of which 1,804 are brick, and 2,150 are frame, and 423 buildings for shops, &c., besides public buildings, making a total of about 4,500.

In 1837, the assessors, under an act of corporation, valued and made a return of the United States property as follows:

23,132,793 square feet, (exclusive of unsold building lots,) averaging less than 8 cents the foot to	$3,153,806
Public buildings,	3,824,200
Amounting to	$6,978,006

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