[*From the Baltimore Patriot.*]

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

A pretended agent of a peculiar nature, supposed to be capable, in some mysterious mode, of producing the most powerful effects on the human frame. The rise and progress of animal magnetism affords one of the most striking examples on record, of the influence through the imagination of the mind upon the body; and at the same time, one of the most curious cases of knavery and credulity in the history of the delusions of the human mind. A brief account of it may not be without amusement and instruction.

It was in the year 1734, that Mersburg, in Suabia, had the honor of giving birth to Anton Mesmer, the discoverer of animal magnetism. This celebrated man studied physic at Vienna, and took his degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of that place, in the year 1776 On that occasion he published an inaugural thesis on the influence of the planets on the human body. It chanced that the Professor of Astronomy at Vienna, a Jesuit named father Hehl the friend of Mesmer, had great faith in the influence of the load stone on human diseases, and had invented steel plates of a peculiar form, which he impregnated with the virtues of the magnet, and applied to the cure of diseases with extraordinary success."

Mesmer, who had his own notion of the virtues of the magnet, availed himself of his friend's steel plates to employ the magnet according to his own peculiar views. Wonderful were the results; on the communication of which to father Hehl, his friend published an account of them—but in this account, he attributed all the cures to the form of the plates, & spoke of Mesmer as a physician whom he had employed to make his experiments. Mesmer, expressing great indignation at this representation, accused Hehl of treachery, and of endeavoring to turn to his own advantage a discovery with which he had been entrusted in the confidence of friendship. Hereupon arose a violent controversy, which ended in the total defeat of Mesmer, who, as if deriving fresh energy from discomfiture, went on working greater cures than before, and making incomparably greater noise about them. Nevertheless, being deserted by all men of science, who universally regarded him as an impostor, he was obliged to quit Vienna. After travelling some time in different parts of Germany and Switzerland, continuing every where to work wonderful cures, at last, in a lucky hour, he set out for Paris, where he arrived in the year 1778 His first care, on reaching this new & formidable theatre for his exploits, was to procure public apartments for the treatment of patients And thither speedily flocked Peer and Peasant, in such numbers that his apartments were crowded, and hundreds were ready to attest the wonderful cures wrought upon their own persons by the great magnetizer. In the general excitement, it would have been wonderful if no regular member of the Medical Faculty had become a convert. Mesmer found a highly useful one in a certain M. d'Eslon, who openly confessed his conversion to the system and who practised it with so much success, that he is said to have received in fees from his patients, no less a sum than £100,000. The disciple, in this, proceeded further than was altogether satisfactory to the master. Mesmer complained bitterly that he was betrayed and ruined; and that the fruit of long study and incessant watchings, which it had been the labor of his life to bring to perfection, was snatched from him by another. He now applied to the government, and succeeded in obtaining the patronage of the Queen. "A chateau and its lands where he might be enabled to continue his treatments at leisure & independently of persecution," was what he asked. A life rent of 20,000 francs per annum and in lieu of the chateau another sum of 10,000 francs a year to enable him to select a proper situation for the treatment, were actually offered him.—The offer however, was coupled with one condition—namely, that three persons named by the government should witness and report upon his proceedings. Nevertheless it was stipulated that, even if the report of these persons should prove unfavorable, the sums promised him should not be forfeited, while, if favorable, he might look for the most splendid rewards. But Mesmer was sharp sighted enough to foresee that the report would not be favorable, and that the reward would not be continued if undeserved.—He therefore suddenly quitted France & repaired to Spa. Thither he was followed by several patients of rank and fortune, who, on condition that he would communicate his doctrine & practice, bound themselves to find one hundred persons who should pay him each two thousand four hundred francs for his instructions. The sum actually raised by these subscriptions amounted to 340,000 francs, nearly equal to £14 000 sterling. On receiving this sum Mesmer returned to Paris and recommenced his public treatments. Meantime, his disciples who had paid thus liberally for his instructions formed themselves into what they called Societes de l'Harmonie, for the purpose of gratuitously propagating the doctrines of animal magnetism. But the master disputed their right to do this: the disciples, on the other hand, maintained that they had purchased the privilege; at all events they resolved to exercise it, and set about doing so—and now, Mesmer seeing no prospect of making any further personal advantage by his discovery, quietly put the money in his purse, quitted France, returned to his native place, and gave himself no further trouble about the success or failure of animal magnetism.

Such is the history of the discoverer: Of the discovery, Mesmer himself gives the following account:—"Animal magnetism is a fluid universally diffused; it is the medium of a mutual influence between the heavenly bodies, the ea leave no void; its subtility admits of no comparison; it is capable of receiving, propagating, communicating all the impressions of motion: it is susceptible of flux and of reflux. The animal body experiences the effects of this agent; by insinuating itself into the substance of the nerves it affects them immediately.—There are observed particularly in the human body, properties analagous to those of the magnet; & in it are discerned poles equally different and opposite. The action and virtues of animal magnetism may be communicated from one body to other bodies, animate and inanimate. This action takes place at a remote distance, without the aid of any intermediate body; it is increased, reflected by mirrors; communicated, propogated, augmented by sound; its virtues may be accumulated, concentrated, transported. Although this fluid is universal, all animal bodies are not equally susceptible of it; there are even some, though a very small number, which have properties so opposite, that their very presence destroys all the effect of this fluid on other bodies. Animal magnetism is capable of healing diseases of the nerves immediately,—and others mediately. It perfects the action of medicines; it excites and directs salutary crises in such a manner, that the physician may render himself master of them; by its means he knows the state of health of each individual, & judges with certainty of the origin, the nature and the progress of the most complicated diseases; he prevents their increase, and succeeds in healing them, without at any time exposing his patient to dangerous effects or troublesome consequence, whatever be the age, the temperament, or the sex. In animal magnetism, nature presents a universal method of healing and preserving mankind." Memoire sur la Decouverte du Magnetisme Animal, par. M. Mesmer, Paris, 1779, pp, 74, et seq. Ibid. Avis au Lecteur, p. 6.

The mode of bringing the magnatized under the influence of the magnetic fluid was peculiar. In the middle of each room in which he the persons to be treated were collected, was placed a large circular vessel, made of oak wood about a foot and a half in height: the interior of this vessel was filled with pounded glass, iron filings, and bottles containing magnetized water arranged symmetrically: the cover or upper part of the vessel was pierced with numerous holes, in which were placed polished iron rods of various length, bent and capable of being moved: this was called the baquet or magnetic tub—The patients were placed in successive rows around the baquet, and each had one of the rods of iron, the end of which he applied to the part of his body supposed to be the seat of disease: a cord passed around their bodies united the patients to one another, and sometimes they formed a second chain by taking hold of each other's thumbs. A piano forte was placed in the corner of the room, and various airs were played upon it, sometimes accompanied with the voice and song.—The magnetizer held in his hand a polished rod of iron from ten to twelve inches long. The baquet was a reservoir of magnetic virtues; its interior arrangement was for the purpose of consentrating the magnetic fluid; the rods were the conductors for transmitting it. The cords around the bodies of the patients, and the other chain of connection by the thumbs were for increasing the effects of the fluid by communication. The magnetizer had previously charged the piano forte with magnetic fluid; the person playing on it was incessantly giving out more; the sound conducted it to the patients. The purpose of this music was to put the patients into a state of quiet; to give them agreeable sensations, and thus to dispose them to receive magnetic action. The purpose of the magnetizer's rod was to concentrate to a point the fluid which issued from him, and thus to render it more powerful. The sick persons arranged in great numbers and in several rows around the baquet, thus receive the magnetism by all these means; by the iron rods which convey to them that of the baquet; by the cords wound round their bodies; by the connexion of their thumbs which convey to them that of their neighbours; by the sound of the piano-forte or of an agreeable voice diffusing the magnetism in the air; by the finger and rod of the magnetizer moved before their faces above or behind their heads, and on the diseased parts, always observing the direction of the poles; by the eye of the magnetizer; but above all by the application of his hands & the pressure of his fingers on the hypochondria and on the regions of the abdomen; an application often continued for a long time, sometimes for several hours. Meanwhile the patients in in their different conditions present a varied picture. Some are calm, tranquil, and experience no effect; others cough, spit, feel slight pains, local or general heat and have sweatings' others again are agitated or tormented with convulsions.—These convulsions are remarkable in regard to the number affected with them and to their duration and force; and are characterized by the precipitous involuntary movements of all the limbs and of the whole body; by the constriction of the throat; by the leaping motions of the hypochondria and epigastrium; by the dimness and wandering of the eyes; by piercing shrieks, tears, sobbing and immoderate laughter. They are preceded or followed by a state of langour and reverie, a kind of depression and even drowsiness. The smallest unforseen noise occasions shudderings; even a change of tone and measure in the air played on the piano forte influences the patients, a quicker motion agitating them more and renewing the vivacity of their convulsions. Nothing is more astonishing than the spectacle of these convulsions; one who has not seen them can form no idea of them.—The spectator is equally astonished at the profound repose of one part of the patients and the agitation of the rest; at the various accidents which are repeated and the sympathies which are established— ception to each other, rushing towards one another, smiling, speaking with affection and mutually soothing their crisis. All are under the power of the magnetizer; it matters not in what state of drowsiness they may be—his voice, a look, a gesture brings them out of it.

Such is the account of M. Bailly, who together with Lavoisier, Franklin, and other distinguished men were appointed by the French Government to examine into these splendid pretensions. "These commissioners reported That this pretended agent certainly is not common magnetism, for that, on examining the baquet the grand reservoir of this wonderful fluid, by means of a needle and electrometer, not the slightest indication of the presence either of common magnetism, or of electricity, was afforded; that it is wholly inappreciable by any of the senses, or by any mechanical or chemical process; that they tried it upon themselves, and upon many others, without being able to perceive any thing; that on blindfolding those who seemed to be most susceptible to its influence, all its ordinary effects were produced, when nothing was done to them, but when they imagined they were magnetized; while none of its effects were produced when they were really magnetized, but imagined nothing was done; that, in like manner when brought under a magnetized tree, nothing happened if the subjects of the experiment thought they were at a distance from the tree, while they were immediately thrown into convulsions if they believed they were near the tree, although really at a distance from it, that consequently, the effects actually produced, were produced purely by the imagination; that these effects, though some cures might be wrought, were not without danger, since the convulsions excited were often violent and exceedingly apt to spread, especially among men feeble in body and weak in mind, and almost universally among woman, and, finally, that there were parts of the operation of magnetising which might really be turned to vicious purposes, and that immoral practices had already grown out of them."

Notwithstanding such a report, from men so well qualified to form a judgment, animal magnetism, continued to flourish to such a degree, that Dr Franklin, writing some time after this report had become public, and adverting to the proneness of mankind to credulity, states that Mesmer was at that time getting more money, in the shape of fees, than all the regular Physicians in Paris put together. To this day, the belief of it is common, if not general, in Holland, Germany, and other continental nations. The thing never took root in England—There was at one time some danger of it, but it was prevented by the skillful management of a physician of eminence A man of the name of Perkins had invented a wonderfully convenient instrument for collecting, condensing, and applying animal magnetism, composed of a metallic substance, and called a metallic tractor. For this instrument he obtained a patent, and set forth its virtues in a work entitled, The efficacy of Perkins' Metallic Tractors in various Diseases of the Human body and Animals; exemplified by 250 cases from the first literary characters in Europe & America! with a preliminary discourse in Refutation of the Objections made by interest and prejudice to the Metallic Practice. Dr. William Falconer, of Bath, having made tractors of wood so exactly resembling the patent tractors that it was impossible for the eye to distinguish between the one and the other, tried, in conjunction with Dr. Haggarth, the effect of these fictitious tractors, on a large scale, on patients in the Bath Hospital, and produced precisely the same effects with the fictitious as with the genuine, affording a demonstration that whatever effects were produced, were produced solely by the imagination. The publication of these cases put an end to the virtues of metallic tractors in England. Nothing can prevent the success of such impostures, or put an end to the greivous evils they occasion, but the diffusion among the people of sound knowledge relative to the functions of the animal economy, the nature of diseases, and the mode in which remedies operate in their prevention and cure.

(See Report of Benj. Franklin, & other commissioners, charged by the King of France with the examination of Animal Magnetism as now practised at Paris.—Translated from the French, with an Historical Introduction, 8vo. 1785;—The Foreign Review and Continental Miscellany, No. IX. Nov. 1829, article Animal Magnetism.

MESMERISM.—The New Orleans Bulletin of the 6th relates the following curious scene that was witnessed by some twenty five select visiters, comprising several heads of the faculty there, at the exhibition of Dr. Moore, on Friday evening. The description is given with pointed and graphic force; but one of the most serious experiments is not mentioned. During the practical investigations in the sublime science of prenomagnetism, the operator touched up the bump of "Revenge" upon which the subject ground his teeth furiously and grinned horribly a ghastly smile, at the same instant drawing out a pocket pistol and cocking it at the audience!

We have not enjoyed, in all our reading & play going, a more ludicrous piece of irresistible merriment than then took place. Sceptics and true believers alike ran in all directions, tumbling over chairs and shoving each other about, as if the 23d of April was coming up stairs, and Miller's Millenium was popping unceremoniously upon them out of a little pocket pistol. There may be some satisfaction in being shot in a duel or in battle, but to be knocked out of this breathing world by a gentleman in sleep—

"The innocent sleep!
Balm of hurt minds—great Nature's se-

is a very unsatisfactory mode of making a mortal exit.

A naval gentleman present, well acquainted with the young subject asleep, rushed forward to seize the pistol, & was wresting it away, when, with a knowing wink of the eye and in a tolerably loud whisper, the mesmerized individual requested to be let alone! This was a little extra effect, 'not mentioned in the bills,' and of course electrified every body present.—Hurrah for Mesmerism!

MONEY.—He was much in the right that said, "Covetousness is the root of all evil, and money the great debaucher of mankind." There is nothing so dear that money will not purchase; nor any thing so wicked, but money will procure persons that will dare to attempt it. When bestowed upon the grateful, it makes him your humble servant, beyond the stretch of a formal compliment; he is, life and limb, devoted to your interest. On the contrary, a mercenary knave runs along with the largest and openest purse; and a fairer bidder shall make him betray the best friend he has, murder a father, ruin a brother, sell his country, with his soul and body, for the lucre of a great sum of money, and take the pillory and the gallows in his way to the devil Money makes the physician promise you health when you are dying; puts an ignoramus into office; makes the lawyer set a good face upon an ill matter; hides some time a NON CON TUBSTER under a gown and cassock; and persuades him to conform, reform, deform, and submit to any form, for the sake of his goddess PECUNIA—Washingtonian.

CAPTAIN W. A. SPENCER.—Several idle rumors have found their way into the newspapers touching the return of this officer to the United States from the Mediterranean squadron. Among other things it has been stated that he has resigned his commission in the navy. The rumors are none of them true—certainly not the last. Captain Spencer applied to Commodore Morgan for leave of absence to visit his family on the 25th of January. On the 9th of February the the Commodore granted the permission requested, though with great reluctance in consequence of the high estimate he placed upon the services of Captain S in sustaining the discipline of the squadron. Still, the grounds of the application were so strong and urgent that the Commodore did not feel at liberty to deny it. *On* his return to the United States, Capt S., as directed by the Commodore, reported himself to the Secretary of the Navy, by whom he has since been informed that pursuant to his request, an order for his relief had been forwarded to the Mediterranean; and that, under the circumstances of the case, his return in anticipation of the arrival of that order has been approved by the Department Of course the story of a resignation is idle. We trust it may be a long while before Capt. Spencer withdraws from the service.—N. Y. Com. Advertiser.

OLD MORTALITY.—The following curious paragraph is going the rounds of the London papers. What will Mrs. Grundy say to it?

"The only occupation of the old man was wandering through the country, repairing the tombstones of the Covenansters, travelling from one churchyard to another, mounted on his old white pony, till he was one day found dead by the road side. His family experienced a singular variety of fortune. One of his sons went to America, & settled at Baltimore, where he made a large fortune. *He* had a son who married an American lady, & the later outliving her husband, became Marchioness of Wellesley! His daughter was married to Jerome Bonaparte, and after separation from him wedded Monsieur Serruier, the French Consul at Baltimore. What would 'Old Mortality" have said, as he bored among the neglected grave stones in Scotland, had he foreseen that the widow of his grandson was to become an English Marchioness, sister in law of the Duke of Wellington and his grand daughter Queen of Westphalia, and sister in law of Napoleon.—

[Inverness Courier.

THE JOHN ADAMS MUTINY.

The report in the New York papers of a mutiny on board the U. S. ship John Adams, is contradicted by a paragraph we copy this evening from the National Intelligencer. We are glad to be able to corroborate the contradiction by positive information. The latest news from the John Adams is brought by the bark Margarett Hugg, at Norfolk. The Supercargo of this vessel has arrived in this city and we learn from the Exchange reading room, that he states there is no truth whatever in the the report of a mutiny.—*Balt. Pat.*

A SETTLER.—An opponent of Mr. M., some few years since exhibited his political gagging by informing the crowd, which he was addressing, that his father was a cooper; and that he had made many a good barrel for them. Tom, in reply indulged in the following strain: "Fellow citizens, I have no doubt that Mr. P.'s (his opponent's) father was a cooper' a first rate cooper, a glorious cooper' a perfect smasher of a cooper, and made you many a good barrel, but fellow citizens, he made one barrel (pointing to P.) in which he forgot to put a *good head.*"—P. sloped.

Michael Hare, the oldest man on the pension roll, lately died at Union, Erie county, Pa, at the age of 116 years. The Rochester Advertiser says:—At the time we first saw him—then said to be 93 and onward till he was 104 years old—he thought nothing of a pedestrian excursion of fifty miles, which he would accomplish much sooner than many hale men of not half his years. The prime of his life was spent on the frontier—not only in the capacity of soldier, but

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EASTON GAZETTE.

EASTON, MD.

Saturday Morning, April 8.

FOR PRESIDENT
HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

The month of March, which has just gone by, was the coldest known for forty years.

The New York Herald has letters from Washington, stating "that in the beginning of May Mr. Daniel Webster will retire from the State Department, and immediately thereupon, a new reorganization will take place in the Cabinet. Mr. Webster has just signified this intention to the President, and it is probable that he will either take the mission to London, or that to Paris, there to superintend a grand movement of American diplomacy in Europe, having reference to all the international questions between the two Continents."

A Report has been made in the New York Assembly, rejecting the New York share of the Public Land Fund.

Dr. Richard S. Stewart, has been unanimously elected Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Maryland, in place of Prof. Potter, deceased.

TRIAL OF YOUNG MERCER.—The trial of young Mercer for shooting Heberton, is still going on in the State of New Jersey. An effort is being made to acquit him on the ground of insanity.

The testimony in the trial of Singleton Mercer has been closed, and the Jury has since been addressed by Mr. Carpenter, the Prosecuting Attorney, for the State, and by Ex-Governor Vroome, for the defence.

The Mobile Advertiser says that the appointment of Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Alabama, conferred on the Rev. Mr. JOHNSTON, of Alexandria, D. C. has been declined.

DEATH OF BISHOP ROBERTS.—We regret to learn by a slip from the Cincinnati Western Christian Advocate, that the venerable Bishop Roberts, of the Methedist Episcopal Church, died at his residence near Lawrenceport, Indiana, on the 27th March.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of Wednesday afternoon has the following paragraph:

The Mackenzie case at Washington—We have good reason to know that the Secretary of the Navy has hitherto avoided all discussion of the Mackenzie case; that he has refrained from reading the reports of the evidence in the newspapers, and all newspaper comments and discussions thereon; being determined to keep his mind free and unprejudiced, until he should receive, and have time carefully to examine, the official record of the Court Martial. The examination of that record, and the formation of an opinion thereon, it was supposed, would occupy at least ten days. There have been no Cabinet discussions on the subject of these proceedings. While we can say that this statement can be entirely relied upon, we cannot forbear to add the remark, that in our judgment the course thus pursued by the Secretary of the Navy is worthy of the character he has always sustained,—that of an impartial and upright Judge

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A great excitement has been produced at New Brunswick, in New Jersey, by the removal from office of SAMUEL C. COOK, Postmaster for that city—a gentleman against whom there is no just ground of complaint political or other—& appointing in his place a person named Simpson, of whom we know nothing, but of who it is averred besides being an ultra politician of the Locofoco school, did, during the canvass of 1840, denounce not only General Harrison, but "Tyler too," as a traitor to Jacksonism, &c. A meeting of the citizens of New Brunswick, without distinction of party was held at the Court-House on the evening of the 13th inst., the Mayor of the city in the chair. Resolutions expressing the nearly unanimous sentiment of the town in condemnation of the removal were adopted.—*Nat. Int.*

BALLOTING FOR PRESIDENT.—Our brother of the New York Commercial Advertiser publishes a letter from a friend who says that on his way to Washington City, the cars this side of Baltimore got caught in a snow bank, and all hands were detained for a long time, during which a Presidential vote was taken which resulted as follows: Clay 9, Tyler 8, Calhoun 5, Van Buren *none.*

One may well wonder how, in a body of twentytwo men, eight could be found for Tyler. But the moment one considers the circumstances under which the balloting took place, he will see the cause—the parties were going to Washington. let them take a ballot on returning.

The schooner recently chased by the U. S. brig Boxer off the Isle of Pin

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SALE OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.—The Treasurer of the Western Shore of Maryland, has published an advertisement for the sale of the State's interest in certain works of internal improvement. Proposals for their purchase will be received, and the Treasurer is authorized to make sale of the State's interests on or after the 1st of July next on the terms stated in the act.

First—The State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal will, be transferred, on delivery to the Treasurer, after the time named, of five millions of the State's stock, which bears an interest of not less than five per cent. Before the State's interest is transferred, however, the Canal Company are to secure the holders of the scrip or other evidences of debt of said Company, their claims payable in twenty years, with an interest of six per cent, by issuing bonds to that effect, payable, however, at any time in State stock at par. These debts of the Canal Company must be over a million of dollars, which will make the cost of the Canal to those who may purchase it under this law, stand at over six millions of dollars in State stock.

Second.—The State's interest in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Washington Branch Railroad is to be transferred on delivery to the Treasurer of State bonds, bearing an interest of not less than five per cent, to the amount of four millions two hundred thousand dollars.—The Treasurer is also authorized to release the State's claim to one fifth of all the passage money received on the Washington Railroad, on the Railroad Company agreeing to pay the State a perpetual annuity of thirty thousand dollars annually.

Third—The State's interest in the Tide Water Canal is to be sold for one million of State bonds, bearing not less than five per cent interest.

Fourth.—The State's interest in the Susquehanna Railroad is to be sold for a million of State five per cent bonds.

GAMING IN MARYLAND.—The legislature of Maryland at its late session, enacted a pretty severe law against gambling. It makes the offence of keeping a gaming a table a misdemeanor, and fines the person keeping it $100 for each offence. And every person who shall appear, act, or behave as the person having the care government or management of the gaming table, shall be deemed and taken as the keeper. Door keepers, waiters, and those in any way aiding or assisting, shall be fined twenty dollars for each offence. Betters at such tables are held guilty of misdemeanor, and are to be fined twenty dollars; and if the keeper, or other person liable for the former fine, shall make any bet that shall be considered a separate offence, and the offender fined additionally. Billiard tables constitute the only exception, and every person who permits any other table to be kept in any house over which he or she has the occupancy or control, either as owner, tenant, or temporary occupant, shall be deemed guilty of keeping a gaming table, within the meaning of the act, and be punished accordingly. The constables are directed to visit and make discovery; the justices of the peace and the several courts are charged with the execution of the law; the fines go, one half to the State, and the other to the informer, and the informer is made a competent witness, without releasing his interest in the penalty. Such is the law in Maryland, and if faithfully executed, will go far to diminish the evil.—The difficulty, generally, is not a want of law to reach the mischief, but a want of faithful officers to enforce the law.

[LEDGER.

INCOME TAX.—According to the act passed at the late session of the Legislature of this State—in reference to the tax on incomes, it provides that two and one half per cent shall hereafter be levied on all incomes and emoluments of lawyers, physicians, professors, and teachers of colleges, academies, and schools in the conduct and practice of their several professions and occupations, as such, and to all salaries and emoluments of any office, created or held by or under any corporation, institution or company incorporated by this State, and to all salaries or stipulated remuneration in money, received by any person in the employment of any person, private association, firm, company, or foreign corporation doing business in this State, where the said salary, income, emolument, or remuneration in money, shall amount to the sum of three hundred dollars, & the assessors in executing this and the original act, shall ascertain the excess of such salary, income, emoluments or remunerations in money, over and above the sum of three hundred dollars, and the rate of tax imposed by the said act shall be applied to, and levied on such excess and no more. The tax on ground rents is at the same rate for the entire amount, whatever it may be. Assessors are to be appointed by the first day of May next; and one fourth of the tax is to be paid on or before the first of December next; the residue on or before the first of June, 1844; and on the same day semi annually thereafter.

Melancholy Occurrence—We learn from the New York Courier of Saturday that Passed Assistant Surgeon Richard W. Leecock, Surgeon of the U. S. brig Somers, committed suicide on Friday evening at six o'clock, by shooting himself over his right eye, with a pistol, in the gun room of that vessel. He had been attached to her since she has been in commission. He was a valuable and excellent officer, stood high in his profession, and was much esteemed by his brother officers. He was 28 years of age, and a native of Norfolk, Va.

This unfortunate occurrence is attributed to his having contracted the yellow fever on a former cruise in the U. S. Schooner Grampus, which left him in a