FOREIGN NEWS.

ARRIVAL OF

the Cambria.

Great changes in the Commercial policy of England—Repeal of the Corn Law —Triumph of Free Trade.

PACIFIC NEWS!!!

The news is gratifying in its nature; and peaceful in its aspect. Parliament has assembled. The *Queen's* message is entirely pacific. Expressions of regret are made that the difficulties between that country and the United States, relative to Oregon, are yet unsettled.

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

On the 23d January, in the House of Commons, Mr. Hume introduced the relations of Great Britain and the United States. He said he hoped the Prime Minister would be able to preserve the good understanding which existed between the two nations. It was in the power, he said of England and France to preserve the peace of the world. He approved heartily of the Queen's recommendation for an increase of the naval and military force of the country, which he was sure would meet the approbation of the House and the nation. He expressed the more gratification with this "when he found the chief magistrate of a great country, from whom he expected better things, venture to set at nought all those rules and regulations which civilized nations observed towards each other."

Sir Robert Peel responded to this as follows:—

"I never entertained the slightest apprehension that any contrast between the language employed in her majesty's speech in reference to those unfortunate disputes that still prevail between this country and America, and that which has been used by the chief magistrate of the United States, would have been made in this House. I never thought that that could be mistaken or misrepresented. We have no hesitation in announcing our sincere desire, for the interest of this country, for the interest of the U S & for the interest of the civilized world in continuing to strain every effort which is consistent with national honor, for the purpose of amicably terminating those disputes. [Hear.] I never had any apprehension that our intentions or our language would be misrepresented; and the speech of which the honorable gentleman (Mr. Hume) the uniform and consistent advocate of the strictest economy, has just made, confirms me that my anticipations will not be disappointed. [Cheers.] And if any proposal which her Majesty's Government may feel it their duty to make for the maintenance of essential rights, or of the national honor, shall be responded to and supported by this House, then let me not be mistaken. I think it would be the greatest misfortune if a contest about the Oregon between two such powers as England and the United States could not, by the exercise of moderation and good sense be brought to a perfectly honorable and satisfactory conclusion. (Cheers.)

OREGON AND THE RIVER PLATE.

In the House of Commons, on the 24th Lord John Russell, said—

He was not about to allude to those subjects which had been before the House last night, but there were two questions in that part of the speech from the throne which related to our foreign relations which he wished for some explanation upon. First, with regard to the Oregon question. He entirely participated in the feelings of the right hon. gentleman, both that peace with the United States was most desirable, and that we ought to do nothing that was inconsistent with the honor of this country. But certain statements had been put forth in America, & had been reported to have been made to the Congress of the U. States which made it desirable that some explanation should be given on the subject. He had thought that the President of the U. States had last year made declarations to Congress on this subject which were not conformable to the usages of civilized countries, or to the friendly relations of the two states; but it would appear however that a proposition for a compromise had been made from the President to Her Majesty's Government, and he (Lord John Russell) conceived that that proposition had changed the state of the question. The proposition itself might be satisfactory or not satisfactory; but having been made, it did appear to him to require a statement from those in authority in this country of the terms on which they would be satisfied to settle this question. That proposition, as he understood, had not been received by her Majesty's Government but had been declared to be totally inadmissible by our Minister in America. He (Lord John Russell) confessed he thought that was a hasty proceeding on the part of the representative of Her Majesty in the United States. But what he wished to ask was, whether the negotiations had recommenced or were going on? He was not desirous that the papers should be presented to the House; he was willing to leave the negotiation in the hand of her Majesty's Government until they could state that a satisfactory result had been attained, before he asked for any information of the particular state of the negotiations.

One word with respect to what had fallen from the hon. member for Montrose. Her Majesty required the attention of the House to increase in the estimates which provided for the efficiency of the military & naval services. He could well understand that with the increased possessions of this country abroad & the consequently increased demands on the services of military and naval forces in every part of the world, there might be reasons for the increase of the estimates even at a season of profound peace, and when nothing threatened on any side; and he trusted that it was on these grounds, and not on account of anything in the aspect of affairs with reference to the U. States, that her Majesty's Government had made this increase. He, for his part had for some time thought that the efficiency of the military force of this country at its present amount was too much tried, and that too much was demanded from that force. His second question was this. Her Majesty stated that for several years a desolating and sanguinary warfare had afflicted the States of the Rio de la Plata, and it was further stated that her Majesty was endeavor to effect the pacification of those states. He (Lord John Russell) understood that that endeavor to effect a pacification had been prosecuted by means of warlike measures, and he somewhat doubted whether that was the right mode of proceeding. It was true, it was stated that the commerce of all nations had been interrupted. But it was further stated that "acts of great barbarity had been committed unknown to the practice of a civilized people." Acts of barbarity were certainly very dreadful things; but he doubted whether it was wise in Her Majesty's Government to state that as a ground of a forcible intervention. They had heard—though he would not name the countries in which they had taken place—but they had heard of dreadful acts of barbarity in other parts of the world; and certainly he had not heard it proposed by any wise statesman that there should be any intervention in those countries. The question which he had to submit to the right hon. baronet was, whether he proposed to lay on the table any papers explanatory of the ground upon which Her Majesty's Government thought it necessary to interfere with the warfare which had occurred in the states of the Rio de la Plata?

Sir Robert Peel said he was not prepared to give an answer to the questions that had been put; but in regard to Oregon he made the following very important declarations:—

With regard to the Oregon territory, I have to state that a proposition was made by Mr. Buchanan, with the authority of the President of the U. States, to Mr. Pakenham, and the proposal so made suggested a division of the territory. Whether or not that proposal ought to have been accepted I cannot say. Mr. Pakenham thought the terms proposed were so little likely to be acceptable, that he did not feel himself warranted in transmitting the proposal to the government at home; and on signifying this to Mr. Buchanan, the latter immediately stated that the proposal was withdrawn. This is the state of the negotiations at present, so far as I am informed, respecting the proposal submitted by Mr Buchanan. *I have the highest opinion of Mr. Pakenham; I have the greatest respect for his talents and the greatest confidence in his judgment, yet I must say it would have been better had he transmitted that proposal to the home Government for their consideration, and if found in itself unsatisfactory it might have formed the foundation for a further proposal.* (Hear.) Since that period this country has again repeated to the United States their offer of referring the matter to arbitration, but no answer has yet been received to the proposal so made.

PEEL'S FINANCIAL SCHEME.

We point out to our readers the most striking features in the plan for the fiscal regeneration of the country, which Sir Robert Peel, in a four hour's speech, introduced in the House of Commons on the 27th January. In that speech he took an elaborate review of the fiscal condition of the country, and announced the reduction of duty on a number of articles which press upon the commercial and agricultural interests. He impressed upon the manufactures the necessity of preparing for the advent of free trade, by giving up whatever limited amount of protection they now enjoy from foreign competition in the shape of prohibitory duties; and the duties so imposed he announced his intention of reducing to a nominal amount. But this appeal to the manufacturers is useless; they have long since publicly repudiated the benefits of all protecting duties; have declared that they seek for no aid beyond free scope for the exercise of their talents in the open markets of the world; & have often said in substance to the agriculturist "do thou likewise."—The timber duties are to under go a revision, but into the details of the change he did not enter, reserving it for another day.

For the reduction on tallow, on paper hangings, on soap and candles, on boots and shoes, on foreign spirits, on clover and other seeds, on provisions, (fresh and salted) on vegatables, on foreign made carriages, we must refer to our ample report of the speech itself in an other column.—We can do little more than indicate in this place, *current calamo*, the primory heads of the scheme. Sugar—that great article of Colonial produce, which next to the corn laws, has been most virulently assailed on account of the tenacity to which the Minister has clung in screening it from competition—is still to be more or less protected. Slave-grown sugar he still regarded as an abomination; but the duty on foreign free labor sugar is to be reduced 3s 6d. per cent. The Corn laws he proposes to abolish totally and unconditionally, on the first of February, 1849, and in the mean time a modified sliding scale is to be substituted for the one at present in existence.

For instance, when the price of corn is under 38s., the duty will be 10s.; when above 48s and under 40s., 9s., and so on, the duty declining 1s, with a rise in the price of a 1s, until the price reaches 53s., when a permanent duty of 4s. is to take place, in order to propitiate the landlord class, sums of money are to be advanced by government for the improvement of agriculture. The law of settlement is to be altered, so that, after a servitude or residence of five years in a manufacturing district, the peasant who has left the plough for the factory must receive parochial aid, if he require it, from the place of his adoption, not the place of his nativity; the same with regard to his children and his widow. Moreover, the highway rates are to be remodelled on a plan which is to save a tug at the agricultural purse; and various other charges, hitherto paid out of the country rates, such as the expenses of convicted prisoners, of prosecutions at sessions, the education of work house children, &c., are to be paid in future by the State.

In a word, the new scheme is as near an approximation to the principles of free trade as can be safely consistent with the policy of a country which has its credit to support, and the interest of an overwhelming national debt to pay. Sir Robert Peel has acknowedged the principal that duties ought to be levied for revenue and not for protection, and his future policy, it is clear, will be directed to that end.—But it would be too much to assume that he can carry out the new course of action on which he has now entered witout a struggle and a desperate struggle too, with the powerful interests which belive themselves to be jeopardised. The protectionists are boiling with fury, and the language recently held in the House of Lords by the Dukes of Richmond and Buckingham, indicate the fierce passion which sway the breasts of British landlords towards the most clear-headed, practical statesman of his age.

Looking at the question in every point of view, taking into account the present position of parties, the advent of a new election the flush of triumph which mantels the cheeks of the Free-traders, the gloom and anger which reign in the faces of the Protectionists—viewing the state of the repistry, the condition of the food market, our relations with the United States, the absence of an excitement except on the great question of free trade—we arrive at the conclusion, not only that Sir Robert Peel will pass his new tariff triumphantly, but that he will do it in the PRESENT PARLIAMENT!

We copy the following paragraph from Sir Robert Peel's Speech in explanation of his views relative to the Corn Laws and the proposed Tariff.

Now, on the one hand, I offer to those who insist on the immediate removal of these laws, the unrestricted importation, at least the importation at a nominal duty, of all kinds of corn and all kinds of meal the produce of corn from British colonial possessions out of Europe, duty free; & to the agriculturists I offer other articles, the produce of the United States, and an article, to the free export of which the United States gives the utmost importance——that of maize. This is the provision with respect to other discriptions of grain which we propose to endure during that period when foreign grain is to be subjected to duty.—We intend to meet some of the objections that have been made. At the same time to fix on a duty that would be considered valuable would not answer the purpose I am desirous of attaining, that of making an immediate reduction on account of temporary circumstances. (Hear.) We propose, therefore, that the enactment to endure for three years shall be to this effect: That in lieu of the duties now payable on the importation of corn, grain, meal, or flour, there shall be paid until the 1st day of February, 1849, the following duties, viz:—If imported from any foreign country.

WHEAT.

Whenever the average price of wheat, made up and published in the manner required by law, shall be for every quarter.

Under 48s	the duty shall be for	every quarter	10s
48 — 49s	do	do	9s
49 — 50s	do	do	8s
50 — 51s	do	do	7s
51 — 52s	do	do	6s
52 — 53s	do	do	5s
53 and upwards	do	do	4s

With respect to all other restrictions, I shall follow the scale that affects wheat.

DOMESTIC.—Mr. Cobden has published an address to the farmers of England on the proposition of Sir R. Peel, relative to corn. His object is to convince them that it is better for their interests, in every point of view, to have the corn laws repealed at once, instead of waiting for the ministerial term of three years.

The battle which has been raging for some time between the Free Traders and the Protectionists continues with unabated fury; and the sound of the collict falls upon the ear from every part of the country.—The Anti-corn law League, while they approve of Sir Robert Peel's financial scheme as a whole, are busy marshalling their strength against the modified sliding scale for three years. Meetings are every where held to petition for immediate repeal; and the well organized plans of the Leaguers from their greater compactness and system, show to advantage, on an occasion like the present, when public opinion is to be concentrated and promptly expressed.

The celebrated Dr. Pusey, at the expiration of his three year's suspension, appeared on Sunday last in the pulpit of the Cathedral Church of Oxford; and, so great was the anxiety to hear him, that the struggels at the door for admission savoured more of the theatre than the house of prayer. The attendence exceeded all previous experience. Great numbers came purposely from London; and the reporters of the daily press were sent down to place the sermon before the world. Dr. Pusey, it will be remembered, was suspended for preaching the Roman Catholic doctrine of the eucharist. The interval appears to have worked no change in his views; for the doctrines of the priestly remission of sins and of the "real presence" were as strongly insisted on in the present as in the condemned sermon.

The one sermon, in fact, was a continuation of the other; and Dr. Pusey seemed delighted to have the opportunity of repeating his opinions in the presence of the judges—the university authorities. Whether any or what notice will be taken of this last move on the part of the tractarian leader, who is left alone, like the "last rose of summer," blooming in solitude remains to be seen. The "leading journal" yesterday has a pungent attack upon Dr. Pusey, which may be regarded as tolerably clear evidence that his views had little sympathy with the popular mind in England.

The hog is said to be imbued with the faculty of seeing the wind; the Times possesses, as certainly, the intuitive faculty of reading the signs of the times, and its Jim Crow girations are generally influenced by a desire to swim with the current. Some twelve or eighteen months ago it was as much the organ of the Tractarians as it is now their assailant; and it has been probably moved to this policy by the sensations produced in the popular mind by the number and frequency of the conversions to Rome.

Alterations of Duties on American Produce.—The British Ministry propose, to make important reductions on many of the articles exported from America to England. We hope to see a similar spirit manifested by the Cabinet at Washington. The alterations comprise:—

	Previous Duties.	*Reduced to*
Bacon	14s per cwt	Free
Beef, fresh	8s per cwt	Free
" salted	8s per cwt	Free
Hay	16s per load	Free
Hides	2d per lb	Free
Meat	8s per cwt	Free
Pork	8s per cwt	Free
Buckwheat	———	1s per quarter
Butter	20s per cwt	10 per cwt
Candles, tallow	10s per cwt	5s per cwt
Cheese	10s 6d per cwt	5s per cwt
Clocks	20 per cent	10 per cent
Hams	14s per cwt	7s per cwt
Hops	90s per cwt	45s per cwt
India Corn	heavy duty	1s per quarter
Rice	6s per cwt	1s per quarter
Tallow	3s 2d per cwt	1s per cwt

There are many other articles manufactured by the American artizan which may be exported to England with advantage, provided this new Tariff is fully carried out.

There seems great inconsistency in admitting American bacon free, and charging hams (the other part of the pig) with a duty of 7s per cwt. We advise our friends to cure the whole side, including the ham, which in this country is called "a gammon of bacon," and is estimated a "dainty dish," but do not over do it with salt.

In a few packets hence we will forward to our New York agents recipes for curing bacon, adopted in the three most celebrated counties in England, viz: Hampshire, Wiltshire and Cumberland, which may be had on the application of a letter, postpaid.

Mutton hams cured are, in England, held in high estimation by the epicure. These could be imported free as salted meat; and our recollection of the prices on a late tour through the states leads us to the expectation that the exporters would make money by the speculation.

Maryland Legislature.

ANNAPOLIS Feb. 12, 1846

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Mr. Spellman presented a memorial from the members of the bar of Carroll county praying the removal of the Court of Appeals and High Court of Chancery, from Annapolis to Baltimore city.

Mr. Cox obtained leave to report a bill prohibitory of excessive usury.

Mr. Dorsey obtained leave to report a bill repealing the act of 1831, ch. 281, relating to the people of color.

Mr. Reeder, from the Committee on Education, made a long report on that subject. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Dennis submitted an order, calling upon the Treasurer for information in relation to the sum of $20,000, authorised to be borrowed, by an act of 1841, for the use of the Colonization Society. Adopted.

Mr. Kemp reported a bill repealing an act preventing the use of scoops in catching oysters.

The following bills were passed:

A bill authorising the payment of the visiters of Baltimore city and county Jail, on the part of the city $2 per day, for attending regular meetings as allowed the other portion of the Board.

A bill repealing a portion of the act giving concurrent jurisdiction to the Carroll county Court with the District Court.

CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND.

Mr. Bowie, from a portion of the Committee on the Constitution, made an elaborate report in reference to the call of a Convention, accompanying it with a bill for repealing the 59th article of the Constitution, and prescribing rules to organise a Convention to reform the Constitution. Ordered to be printed, and made the order of the day for Thursday of next week.

The special order of the day—being an adverse report by the majority of the committee on propositions for the call of a Convention being announced, Mr. Biser submitted a substitute therefor, proposing to take the sense of the people as to calling a convention, &c.

On motion of Mr. Biser, the House resolved itself into Committee of the whole —Mr Carpenter in the chair.

Mr. McLane addressed the Committee, for upwards of an hour, in favor of the substitute; maintaining the right of the people to convene in Convention to change the Constitution; the power of the Legislature, in its capacity as trustees of the people, to ask the sovereign, creative, power, to say whether they desire it; and opposed the doctrine that the 59th article of the Constitution need be repealed to enable the people so to meet. He held the plan proposed as constitutional, not revolutionary

Mr. McLane, having concluded, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again. The House adjourned.

IN SENATE.

Mr. Frick reported a bill supplementary to an act of 1844, ch. 282, relating to negroes. Passed.

A bill divorcing Richard Adams, of Talbot county, was also passed.

The consideration of the contested seat between Messrs. Quinn and Ross, of Frederick, was resumed.

Mr. Quinn, the sitting member, commenced an argument in favor of his right to the seat, but had not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

Correspondence of Balt. Patriot.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 19, 1846.

An alarm of fire was given this afternoon, and it was difficult to make the citizens realise that it was from the State House. It verily was, however, and that graceful pile made a narrow escape from destruction.

The fire was the result of accident, and the wonder is that it has not heretofore happened. The furnace is acknowledged to be dangerous, and it is made doubly so, from the necessity of stowing the fuel about it. This took fire, and the first intimation given, was the gushing of flames through the ventilators. The town was soon at work upon it, however, and under the masterly direction of one of Baltimore's best firemen Mr. Vansant, was soon subdued. It had confined itself to the coal, the building having luckily escaped harm, except from the axe, by which the Hall of the Delegates was somewhat mutilated.—The saw & the hammer are already however busy upon it, and it will doubtless be ready again by morning for the session of the House at the usual hour.

The important papers from the record offices, were removed on the first alarm and were soon out of danger. The fire luckily occurred before night.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 19, 1846.

The speaker presented reports from the Treasurer, in obedience to orders of the House.

Mr. Maffit presented a petition from Townley Chase Loockerman, of Annapolis, praying to be divorced from his wife.

Mr. Johnson, from the committee of Ways and Means, made an elaborate report setting forth the State finances, and proclaiming the cheering intelligence that the increased revenue received under existing laws, (with further legislation,) authorises the hope that, by funding the arreers, the State may resume the payment of accruing interest at an early day. Ordered that 300 copies be printed.

The following bills were pased.

A bill extending the provisions of the Act stamping promissory notes, &c.

A bill granting jurisdiction to the United States over Solers' Point Flats, for purposes of naval fortifications.

A bill extending the time of certain collectors in Harford county.

A bill ceding jurisdiction to the United ates over lands for the use of Fort Severn and Fort Madison; and

A bill requiring the Commissioners of Prince George's county to pay over certain taxes.

CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND.

The house resolved itself into committee of the whole, on the Constitution, Mr. Carpenter in the Chair.

Mr. Jones of St. Mary's, reported in opposition to the call of a convention, as unconstitutional and inexpedient. He spoke for upwards of two hours; and having concluded, the committee rose, reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

Adjourned.

IN SENATE.

A bill incorporating the Patapsco Division of the Sons of Temperance, was passed.

Also the following bills from the House:

A bill fixing the pay of messengers to the Courts in Prince George's county.

A bill in favor of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Company.

Mr Quynn resumed his investigation of the testimony in the case of the contested seat, and having concluded, the Senate adjourned.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 20, 1846.

In the HOUSE, the Speaker presented a memorial from the Slave-holders in Q. Anne's co; Mr. Stansbury, a memorial from N. Williams, relative to contempt of court; which with various petitions were presented and referred.—

The Fire.—Mr. Murray offered a resolution empowering the Treasurer, Dr. D. Claude; the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, R. W. Gill, esq.; & David Caldwell, a skillful and practical architectural carpenter, to cause the public property, at the seat of Government, to be placed in good order, to purchase fire apparatus, &c., but it was superceded by a resolution, appointing Messrs Ware, Vansant, and Murray, a committee to ascertain the cause of the fire last evening under the Hall of the House of Delegates, by which the noble old State-house, with all its invaluable contents, came near being destroyed.

Birth Day of Washington. On motion of Mr. Carpenter, the Governor was requested to cause the American Flag to be hoisted from the steeple of the State House, and a national salute fired on Monday next, in commemoration of the birth of Washington.

Bills passed. Incorporating Central Schools and Central Chapel, of Frederick co. To reduce the number of Trustees of the Poor of Somerset co. Renewing charter of the Havre-de-Grace Bank.

The House then went into Committee, when Mr. Biser spoke about two hours on the Convention question.

IN SENATE. The following House bills were passed.

A bill incorporating the John Brantz Iron and Coal company of Allegany co.

A bill regulating writs of error and granting of appeals to the Court of Appeals.

A bill relating to sheriffs.

A bill relating to insolvent debtors.

Mr. Quynn concluded his argument in the contested seat issue; when Mr. Ross rose to reply, but Mr. Frick suggested that he desired to submit a proposition in reference to the matter, he yielded; and the Senate adjourned.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 24, 1846.

The HOUSE met last evening, simply to adjourn no business was done.

To-day, a communication was received from James Johnson, proposing to make the State House fire-proof; also a report from the Ches. and Ohio Canal Company.

Leaves granted to report bills.—To Mr. Johnson, preventing the unlawful exportation of free colored persons, & relating to runaway slaves. To Mr. Pierson, in favor of Thomas H. Slaughter, of Caroline County. To Mr. Eccleston protecting the rights of husbands.

Bills reported.—Mr. Johnson reported a bill providing for the resumption of payment of interest on the public debt on the first day of October next, for the redemption of outstanding coupons, and the issuing of certificates instead, bearing interest; and for the sale of bank stocks, if deemed necessary.

Miscellaneous.—Mr. Murray reported favorably upon a proposition to purchase files of the "Maryland Gazette" for the use of the state.

On motion of Mr. Bowie, the House agreed not to meet this evening.

Constitution of Maryland.—In committee of the (whole, Mr. Furgerson in the Chair,) Mr. Bowen, of Baltimore county, occupied one hour, under a rule, in an argument in favor of the bill proposing a call of a convention on the constitution.—The committee obtained leave to sit again. Mr. Johnson has the floor for to-morrow.

Governor's and Secretary's Salaries. A bill providing for a reduction of the salary of the Governor and Secretary of State, was taken up. After some debate, the Governor's salary was fixed at $2000, by a vote of 53 to 21—not to effect the present incumbent. The Secretary's salary was fixed $1000, by a vote of 46 to 26—to take effect after the 1st of January, 1847. An amendment proposing to sell the government house was negatived by a vote of 36 to 38. The bill was then passed by a vote of 66 to 6. House adjourned.

The Senate was occupied again to-day, in contested seat case. The proposition regulating testimony, as submitted by Mr. Hambleton, was adopted. Col. Ely, in reference thereto, spoke about an hour and a half.

A Duel on Foot.—J. Swan, Esq., a delegate from Allegany county, accompanied by Thos. F. Bowie, Esq., of P. George's as second, and Dr. Coombes, of St. Mary's as surgeon, left this city on Sabbath afternoon, in the cars for Washington to settle a difficulty existing between Mr. Swann & Thos. McKaig, Esq. of Cumberland. The cause is alleged to have grown out of some statements made by Mr. McKaig in reference to Mr. Swan's action in the House upon a mere local matter. So rumor says. I know nothing of this matter more than that Mr. S. and his friends returned to this city by the cars of last evening. During the absence of the parties, Dr. Berry was arrested in this city, the officer mistaking him for one of the parties to the issue.—He was of course released. I learn the matter has been amicably adjusted.

REPORT ON THE STATE FINANCES.—The most important report of the session was submitted to the House of Representatives of the State of Maryland on Thursday, by Mr. JOHNSON, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means—being the usual general report on the finances of the State.

The report states the annual charge against the State Treasury to be $850,474 18, and it estimates the receipts for the current year at $927,456—which would leave a balance of $76,981 82—and this amount, the committee think, may be increased to $100,000.

In view of this fact, they recommend, as a necessary preliminary to the resumption of cash payments by the State Treasury, that the arrearages of interest be funded, which arrearages will be, on the 1st of July next, $1,200,000. If the Legislature shall authorize this amount to be funded, as is recommended, on the 1st of July next, the committee suggest that the bank stock held by the State, and which are valued at $510,966 66, be then sold, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of the certificates for this funded interest.

There is one part of the report which is very gratifying, & which should encourage all the citizens of the State to persevere in the effort to redeem and maintain the State faith. It is that part where it is demonstrated, that the entire debt of the State may, by the gradual accumulation of the sinking fund, be paid off entirely in about thirty-five years; and by a proper application of its other resources and balances, remaining, from time to time, in the Treasury, the day when the State shall be free from debt, will be very materially accelerated.

PUNISHMENT OF NEGROES.—Governor Mouton of Louisiana, in his message to the Legislature of that State, has the following remarks on the subject of Maryland laws:

By the laws of Maryland, slaves and free people of color convicted of crimes are sentenced to be sold as slaves without the limits of the State. I have before me the record of the conviction of a slave in the State of Maryland for manslaughter, who was sentenced to no other punishment than to be sold as a slave without the limits of the State—and he has been brought here in execution of his sentence. I have also another record of the conviction, at Baltimore, of a free man of color, for assaulting with intent to kill, who sentenced to be sold for a term of years without the State —and he, too, is now here in persuance of his sentence. It is the duty of the Legislature to counteract the effects of legislation which must necessarily have a most deleterious influence on our intercourse with a sister State; and I recommend the passage of an act punishing all slaves and free persons of color, who may be found in Louisiana after the commission of crimes in other States, with imprisonment in the Penitentiary for life.

Gov. Pratt in his last message to our Legislature, had some very proper remarks on this subject. The same matter was called to the atttention of the Legislature in the last report of the Directors of Maryland Penitentiary, as follows:

We would call your attention to the laws for the punishment of slaves or free negroes committing crimes, less than capital. In the case of the slave, no matter how high his crime, or aggravated the circumstances under which it is committed, if it be not punished with death, he is only sold out of the State, suffering but a mere change of masters, which it may be questioned is no punishment at all. In the case of a free negro, who is convicted of a second offence the only punishment inflicted on him is to sell him out of the State, it being altogether uncertain whether his case is made better or worse by this, though his offence may be one for which the severest punishment, short of death, should have been inflicted.

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