EASTON GAZETTE.

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

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Passed at the December Session 1845, of the Legislature of Maryland, relative to the Revenue of the State.

A FURTHER SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT "TO AUTHORIZE THE LICENSING OF STOCK BROKERS, EXCHANGE BROKERS, AND BILL BROKERS, and to regulate Contracts for the purchase and sale of Loans & Stocks," passed at December session, 1841, ch. 282.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of each county of this State, of Howard District and of the city of Baltimore, annually in the month of April, to make or cause to be made a list of all individuals, and of every copartnership or firm, who shall make it a business to deal in any manner, directly or indirectly, upon his own account, or for others, in the purchase or sale of stocks, bills, notes, bank notes or other obligations, and to return said list on the Monday preceding the last Saturday in said month, to the Clerk of the Court, where, by the laws of this State, it is now the duty of such individuals or firms engaged in business, to procure a license and for the making and returning of which said lists, said Sheriffs shall be entitled to the same compensation, to be collected and paid in the same manner as is provided by the 5th section of the act of 1827, ch. 117 in reference to similar lists made by them of retailers and ordinary keepers.

Section 2. *And be it enacted* That it shall be the duty of the sheriff aforesaid, to appear in person or by Deputy, before the Grand Jury of their respective counties and District, and of the city of Baltimore, at the regular session of said Courts, and then and there point out to said Grand Jury, the name or names of such person or persons, individuals or firms, who have failed to comply with the provisions of the act of 1841, ch. 282, & the act of 1842 ch. 257, being the acts authorising the licensing of Stock, Exchange and Bill Brokers, and the Grand Jury having such information, shall forthwith make presentments of the name or names of such delinquent or delinquents, in the usual manner, to their respective Courts, who shall thereupon be proceeded against by the Attorney General or his proper Deputy in the same manner as is now provided, in reference to similar delinquencies on the part of traders, and keepers of Ordinaries.

Section 3. *And be it enacted,* That the whole of the penalty imposed by the act above referred to, upon persons engaged in the business above mentioned, shall upon the conviction of such delinquents be paid to and enure to the benefit of the Sheriff so giving such information to said Grand Jury, who shall, nevertheless, not thereby be disqualified from being received as a competent witness in such cases.

D. CLAUDE, Treasurer.

April 4, 1846—3w

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT "TO REGULATE THE ISSUING OF LICENSES TO TRADERS, KEEPERS OF ORDINARIES AND OTHERS" —Passed at December Session, 1827, chapter 117.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the amount of goods, wares and merchandize extended by the Sheriff against the name of each and every person, contained in the alphabetical list, as required by the 4th section of the act of 1831, chapter 262, shall be deemed and taken as conclusive against them, of such amount, and the license issued accordingly, unless any person or persons appearing upon said list, who may consider himself, herself or themselves aggrieved by the return of said Sheriff, shall before he, she or they take out his, her or their license, make oath before the Clerk authorised to issue the same, and specify therein the true amount of goods wares & merchandize, as nearly as he, she or they can ascertain the same, held by him, her or them at the principal season of sale, and then the license shall issue upon the amount thus specified.

Section, 2. *And be it enacted,* That if any person or persons, required to take out a license under the said Original Act or any of its supplements, shall procure license upon a false representation of his, her or their said stock, he, she or they shall forfeit and pay the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered & appropriated as all other penalties under the said original act and its supplements are recovered and appropriated.

Section 3. *And be it enacted,* That if any person or persons shall sell spirituous liquors in less quantities than a pint, without first obtaining an ordinary license, he, she or they shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered and appropriated as all other penalties under said original act are recovered and appropriated.

D. CLAUDE, Treasurer.

April 4, 1846.—3t.

AN ACT IMPOSING A TAX UPON THE SALE OF LOTTERY TICKETS TO AID IN PAYING THE DEBTS OF THE STATE.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the first day of December next, it shall not be lawful to sell, or offer to sell, any ticket or part of a ticket in any Lottery drawn in this State, under the direction of the Lottery commissioners, unless such ticket, or part of a ticket shall have been previously stamped, or signed by one of the Lottery Commissioners, or by their clerk, hereinafter to be appointed.

Section 2. And be it enacted, that for the signing or stamping as aforesaid the said lottery Commissioners shall receive, for the use of this State, from and after the period aforesaid, a tax or duty at the following rate, that is to say, upon all tickets, the scheme price of which shall exceed the sum of ten dollars, twenty cents shall be paid, and upon all tickets, the scheme price of which shall be ten dollars or less, ten cents shall be paid, and a proportionate tax or duty upon fractional parts of whole tickets; the said tax or duty to be collected and paid as is hereinafter provided.

Section 3. And be it enacted that from and after the period aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the contractors, or parties to whom licenses may be sold by the Lottery Commissioners, for the sale of tickets as aforesaid, to make monthly returns, on oath to the Lottery Commissioners, of the number of tickets or parts of tickets sold by them respectively, in each Lottery scheme, and at the time of such return, to pay to the said commissioners for the use of this State, the amount of the tax or duty upon the whole amount of tickets or parts of tickets then sold.

Section 4. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the said lottery commissioners, to keep an accurate record of the number of tickets and parts of tickets issued by them under the authority of this, or any previous law, and upon the returns being made to them by the said contractors, as herein before directed, the said commissioners shall carefully compare the said returns with the said record, and adjust and settle the accounts of the said [illegible] accordingly, and upon the failure of any of the said contractors to make such returns and pay as aforesaid, the bond of the party so failing, shall be forthwith put in suit, and a recovery had thereupon, for the whole amount of the tax or duty due and chargeable upon all the tickets issued to such defaulting contractor, whether the same shall have been sold by him or not.

Section 5. And be it enacted, that from and after the period aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the Lottery Commissioners, to take from the several contractors, bonds with surety and in a penalty to be approved by them, with condition for the performance of the stipulations of this act, on the part of such contractors to be performed and fulfilled, together with, and in addition to the other engagements and stipulations on their part to be performed and fulfilled.

Section 6. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Commissioners of Lotteries, on the first days of January, April, July and October, in each and every year after this act shall go into operation, to account with, upon oath, and pay into the Treasury, all sums of money received by them under the provisions of this act, and upon their failure so to account and pay as aforesaid, for the space of twenty days after the days above limited for that purpose, they shall be sued in the name of this State, and a recovery had against them for the amount for which they may be in default, with interest at the rate of fifty per centum per annum, and upon such recovery their offices shall be vacated and new commissioners be appointed by the Governor.

Section 7. And be it enacted, that the said lottery Commissioners shall have authority to appoint a clerk, and to allow him an annual salary, not exceeding seven hundred and fifty dollars, to be paid out of the proceeds of the tax or duty on Lottery tickets imposed by this act.

D. CLAUDE, Treasurer.

April 4, 1846—3t

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE PAYMENT OF MONEY OUT OF THE TREASURY TO PERSONS WHO MAY BE INDEBTED TO THE STATE.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, the Treasurer upon demand being made upon him by any person or persons or corporate bodies having a claim or claims against the State due to him, them or it, in his, their or its own right, the said Treasurer is authorised and required if such person or persons or corporation is indebted to this State upon the books of the Treasury to an amount less than the sum so due and claimed, to deduct the sum so due to the State from the amount demanded, & to pay the difference only; and if the amount due to the State shall be equal to or exceed, the sum so demanded, the said Treaurer is directed to withhold the entire amount.

Section 2. *And be it enacted,* That in case the demand is made by any assignee of the party, having a claim as aforesaid against this State the same right to deduct or withhold, as the case may be, shall exist, as if the demand were by the assignee.

D. CLAUDE, Treasurer.

April 4, 1846.—3t

AN ACT ENTITLED A FURTHER SUPPLEMENT TO THE ACT TO REGULATE THE FEES OF NOTARIES PUBLIC "passed at December Session 1841 chapter 280."

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all notaries public who shall be hereafter appointed by the Executive, shall be required before they shall be commissioned or authorised to discharge the duties of their office, to give a bond to the State of Maryland, with security to be approved of by the Governor, in the penalty of two thousand dollars, conditioned for the payment into the Treasury of that portion of the notarial fees received by them for the use of the State, and which under the supplemental act of December Session Eighteen hundred and forty four, chapter one hundred and ninety six, they are required to pay into the Treasury.

Section 2. *And be it enacted,* That if any person who shall be hereafter appointed a Notary public, shall neglect or refuse to give the bond required by the preceding section of this act, within thirty days from the date of his appointment, it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint some other person in his place.

D. CLAUDE, Treasurer.

April 4, 1846—3w

THE DEAD LETTER POST OFFICE.—The Washington correspondent of the Portland Argus furnishes the following interesting description of the operations of that branch of the General Post office Department to which are transmitted all the uncalled for letters remaining in the various post offices throughout the Union:

Among the places which I have visited, is the *Dead Letter Office,* in the Post Office Department. It is certainly an interesting part of that building. You will be surprised at some facts I learned there.—The business of the dead letter office alone employs four clerks all the time. One opens the bundles containing the letters sent to Washington, from the several Post Offices, after they have been advertised, and no owner found for them. He passes the letters over to two other clerks, who open them all, to see if they contain any [illegible] thrown on to the pile on the floor. No time is allowed to read them, as that would be impossible, without a great addition of help. The number of dead letters returned to the General Post Office is astonishingly large. You will be surprised when I tell you that it is *fourteen hundred thousand* a year, and under the cheap postage system is increasing! Hence it requires swift hands to open so large a number, without stopping to read a word. Any one who is so silly as to write a mess of nonsense to an imaginary person, supposing it will be ultimately read by some one, may save himself the trouble hereafter.—He may depend upon it, not a word will be likely to be read of the letter, unless he encloses some thing valuable in it; and that would be paying too dear for so small a whistle. At the end of each quarter, the letters that have been opened having accumulated to a huge mass, and having been in the mean time stowed into bags, are carried out on the plains, and there consumed in a bon fire. The huge bags make five or six cart loads each quarter

The letters containing any thing valuable, or in fact, any matter enclosed—are passed over to a fourth clerk, who occupies a separate room for the purpose, and there are canvassed by this gentleman. It is very interesting to examine the heterogenous materials of this room, that have been extracted from letters, and accumulating for years. Here you see the singular matters that are sometimes transported through the Post Office. The amount of money's that at various times has been found in letters, is very large. When any thing of value, as money, drafts, &c. is found, the rule is, to return it to the Post Office, whence it came, and the Postmaster of that office must advertise it, or use any other means best calculated to find the owner.—If all his efforts fail, he returns it to the General Office, and it is labelled and filed away. Sometimes as much as $300 are found in a week, in dead letters! I think within this month several hundreds have been found. An iron chest is kept for the purpose of these deposits. In looking over the files in that chest, I was astonished at the amount of money there, and the large sums contained in some of the letters.—Some single letters containing $50, $40, $10, and down to $1. One letter contained a £10 note—very likely the property or some poor emigrant, (intended for his wife or children,) who had made a mistake in sending it, and no owner could be found.

Among this money is a good deal of counterfeit. The letters are all labelled, not only with the sums, but also whether containing counterfeit or good money. There were many bad small bills, scattered through the piles. In one case there was a bad half eagle—in another were two letters, each containing $300 counterfeit money!—It was on some New York Bank, new, and very nicely done—and was, no doubt, the remittance of one counterfeiter to another; who had been in the meantime apprehended, or was suspicious he was watched, and hence had been too cunning to call for the wicked deposite of his confederate.

In the strong box, also, was a box of change, of all kinds, and a large string of rings of various fancies and values, taken from the dead letters. Many a love token of this modest kind, enveloped in a letter couched in most honied words, and intended, in the mind of the writer, for the dearest girl in the universe, had, instead of reaching its interesting destination, brought up in the dead letter office, passed through the practical hands of these cold, grey-haired clerks, who never stopped to read the tender effusion that cost so much racking of the heartstrings—and the delicate pledge of affection had been tossed into the iron chest, instead of encircling the taper finger of "the love" for whom it was purchased.

But passing out of the chest, the matters that meet your eye on the shelves and in the cases are equally interesting. Here are books, and ribbons, and gloves, and hosiery, and a thousand other things. I saw one specimen of a most splendid ribbon, of several yards, that seemed very much out of place here—when it was intended to adorn the bonnet of some lady. A package lay near that had not been opened It was from England. The postage was $8.63. It had been refused at the office where sent, because of its enormous postage, and was sent to the dead office in due course of time. Now, said the Superintendent, I will show you what valueless things are sent thorugh the mails, in comparison to their expense. I do not know what is in this, but we will see. So he opened it, and behold, it contained about a yard of coarse cloth, like crash, worth perhaps a shilling which had been sent to some dry goods' house in this country, as a specimen of the manufacture of the article, by some factory in England. Of course, the postage being thirty times its value, it was refused by those to whom it was directed. I saw *two night caps* that were taken from a letter only a few days since. If the poor fellow to whom they were sent does not sleep in a night cap until he gets these, his head will be cold. It is impossible for the Department to attend to finding owners for the comparatively valueless things that are received; as night caps, ribbons, garters, stockings, stays, bustles, &c. &c.. and they are therefore thrown into the receptacle of "things lost to earth," and a pretty "kettle of fish" there is in that receptacle, you may depend.

In the cases, arranged and labelled for [illegible] in letters. These are numerous, and run back for a long term of years. They are most carefully preserved. The beneficial policy of this preservation has been often illustrated, and most strikingly so, only the other day. A gentleman in a distant State wrote the Superintendent that some seven or eight years ago a large package of most valuable papers had been lost through the Post Office. They involved the right to a large estate. If he could not find them he would be irretrievably ruined, and begged him to search in the Department for them. He did so. He told me that the first case he opened, under a pile of other papers, he saw a large package, answering the description. He took it out, and it was the very papers wanted. They had slept there quietly for years. The postage was about $10—and they had originally, by some mistake, failed of their rightful owner. The package had been carefully preserved, and the owner was pecuniarily saved.

I have given you but a faint description after all, of this interesting portion of the General Post Office operations. My letter, however, has reached a prudent length, and I must stop. The gentlemen who superintends this wing is Jere. O'Brien, Esq., of Brunswick, in our county. He has been here about ten months. To his politeness I was much indebted, in my obvervations. I have heard his gentlemanly deportment spoken of by others in this connection.—He is a fine specimen of the New England gentleman, and I am happy to record his success in obtaining a place in this Department.

Indian Meal in Great Britain.—The Philadelphia United States Gazette speculates in this wise on the introduction of Indian corn among the English and Irish people:

Well, when some thousand bushels of this 'Indian corn' reach the store houses of England, and are thence distributed into the meal-tubs, and kneading-troughs of the laborers and the swelling heap shows a double quantity for the same cost, of ordinary flour or meal, who shall tell them of its use? Who shall say to the housewife, 'thus shalt thou mix the material; and so shalt thou mould the loaf? Who shall enter into the little laboratory of the workingman's house, and lecture the practical chemist upon the affinities of salt and lard, hot water, and Indian meal, and who will tell her how long she must submit her combination to the action of fire, that it may be for the comfort of her house-hold? Alas she would be as ignorant of all the arts, parts, and process of that work, as were the uninitiated of the Eleusynian mysteries.

Some time after the introduction of tea into Massachusetts, a citizen from Cape Cod came up to Boston, to trade off his fish. The merchant persuaded him to take a pound of tea among other articles of household requirements. "I've heard of the article," said the Cape Cod man, but how is it to be cooked?

"It must be boiled," said the merchant, "& is always used when company comes."

The tea was taken home, and it was resolved to be hospitable. Company was invited to spend the day. At dinner, a fine piece of boiled beef, and another of good fat pork, with an accompaniment of potatoes & carrots, graced the table. "And now," said the host, as he looked in triumph first to his wife, and then to his guests, whom he served bountifully with the viands before them, "help Mrs. Basset to something from that dish."

The pewter spoon was thrust into a dish of well boiled tea leaves; from which the water had been carefully strained, and each from the architrichlinos down to the youngest guest, was served with a quantity of the Chinese weed, real green Souchong.

"Taste of that," said the worthy host, "it is *tea,* such as the quality in Boston and Plymouth make such a fuss about."

Each mumbled a little of the herbage, and carefully rinsed it down with cider, but none ventured to criticise the new addition to the dinner table.

"Will you have some more my dear?'; said the good lady to the husband.

"Not a leaf more—that platefull cost four and sixpence, and if it were not for the name of tea, I would as 'lief have turnip tops, for my greens as that stuff. It is monstrous hard chewing, and not over palatable after all."

And so, or even worse, it may be in England, with the corn meal of this country. It may be made up into form, or mixed in dilution, until poverty itself will grow sick of the ingredients.

Would it not be well as soon as the adoption by Parliament of Sir Robert Peel's plan shall be known, to send messengers on a mission of love and profit to England, to instruct housekeepers in the use of Indian meal? The New England Envoy Extraordinary shall teach the people how to mix the rye and corn meal, and how to build the lofty "loaf of brown bread"—how to mingle the milk, the molasses and the meal, (luscious alliteration) and to compose the 'baked pudding.' The messenger from Maryland would instruct in the formation of "pones," and he of Virginia lecture upon the composition and baking of "hoe cakes," and South Carolina instruct in the fabrication and use of "johnny cakes."

And thus the poor meagre tribe, that had shrivelled up on oat meal gruel, or been drenched by sour flour and poisoned ale, will grow-rugged, red and rampant upon the blood-warming and flesh giving meal of maize. There, the mountain brown loaf of New England would make the crazy table of the weaver groan by its weight though it were ever so "light;" here the "pone" and "Johnny cake" would give grace to the tea equippage of the poor woman, while her children would grow ruddy and plump upon hasty pudding and milk. Hasty-pudding!

"Oh, how I blush
To hear the Pennsylvanians call it mush."

On the subject of stocks of breadstuffs in Great Britain the Mark Lane (London) Express has the following remarks:

"It appears that, on the 5th of February, there were 1,061,780 qrs. of Wheat in bond in the United kingdom; in addition to which, the returns show that the stock of bonded Flour had increased to 685,813 cwts.

"Under ordinary circumstances we should certainly regard this as a good reserve; but this year our position is altogether singularly. The full effects of the Potato disorder have not as yet been developed; even admitting that the extent of the failure has been greatly exaggerated to serve party purposes, still it cannot for a moment be doubted that the mischief has been very serious; an enormous deficiency of an article of food in universal use has hereby been created which must sooner or later tell. Bread, though more costly, will unquestionably be the substitute most generally employed by all those who can afford it; the poorer clases will have to put up with articles which can be obtained at a cheaper rate; such as Barley or Oatmeal—but on Wheat the extra consumption will be principally thrown. If, therefore, the harvest of 1844 had been a full average, we should still in all probability, have found it necessary to import; but, so far from this having been the case, it is admitted almost universally that the produce of Wheat in Great Britain was considerably below that of usual average years.

It appears to us, therefore, that what might otherwise be considered a large stock in bond, now affords no guarantee against comparatively high prices, more particularly as the spring and summer supplies of foreign are likely, in consequence of the prevailing want in many of those countries which usually export their surplus growth to England, to be relatively small. It may further be remarked that Wheat is the only article of which any stocks of importance are held in bond; those of the inferior kinds of Grain being smaller than usual. "In connexion with this subject, it must be remembered that the period for the release of the bonded stock is usually the autumn but no liberation took place in the autumn of 1845, This in some measure accounts for the great excess in the quantity under lock at present, compared with what was held at the corresponding period in former seasons the prospect of a material alteration in the duties having induced the holders to allow their Wheat to remain in bond, instead of liberating it at the usual time. The real difference, taking free and lock Wheat together, is, therefore not so great as it appears, there being at present, scarcely any duty-paid foreign in the kingdom; whilst for several preceding years, we have, in the month of February, generally had a considerable quantity in ware-house."

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS.—The following is an authentic copy of the Special Message transmitted to the U. S. Senate on Tuesday, 24th ult.

To the Senate of the United States.

In answer to the inquiry of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 17th instant, whether in my "judgment, any circumstances connected with, or growing out of, the foreign relations of this country, require at this time an increase of our naval or military force;" and, if so, "what these circumstances are," I have to express the opinion, that a wise precaution demands such increase.

In my annual message of the 2d of December last I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force, especially of our steam navy and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens as might think proper to emigrate to Oregon. Since that period I have seen no cause to recall or modify these recommendations. On the contrary, reasons exist which, in my judgment, render it proper not only that they should be promptly carried [illegible] but that additional provision should be made for the public defence.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress in answer to calls made by them, in reports prepared, with my sanction, by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy on the 29th of December and the 8th of January last; a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and under existing circumstances believed to be most eligible. Subsequent events have confirmed me in the opinion that these recommendations were proper as precautionary measures.

It was a wise maxim of the Father of his country, that "to be prepared for war, is one of the most efficient means of preserving peace;" and that "avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace," we should "remember also, that timely disbursments to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it." The general obligation to perform this duty is greatly strengthened by facts known to the whole world. A controversy respecting the Oregon territory now exists between the United States and Great Britain; and while, as far as we know, the relations of the latter with all European nations are of the most pacific character, she is making unusual and extraordinary armaments and warlike preparations, naval and military, both at home and in her North American possessions.

It cannot be disguised that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture these armaments and preparations would be used against our country. Whatever may have been the original purpose of these preparations, the fact is undoubted that they are now proceeding in part, at least with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States. The general policy of making additional warlike preparations was distinctly announced, in the speech from the throne, as late as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea. This can give Great Britain no cause of offence, nor increase the danger of a rupture. If, on the contrary, we should fold our arms in security, and at last be suddenly involved in hostilities for the maintenance of our just rights, without any adequate preparation, our responsibility to the country would be of the gravest character. Should collision between the two countries be avoided, as I sincerely trust it may be, the additional charge upon the treasury in making the necessary preparations, will not be lost; while in the event of such a collision, they would be indispensable for the maintenance of our national rights and national honor.

I have seen no reason to change or modify the recommendations of my annual message in regard to the Oregon question. The notice to abrogate the treaty of the 6th of August, 1827, is authorized by the treaty itself, and cannot be regarded as a warlike measure; and I cannot withhold my strong conviction that it should be promptly given. The other recommendations are in conformity with the existing treaty & would afford to American citizens in Oregon no more than the same measure of protection which has long since been extended to British subjects in that territory.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country, by which the government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has procrastinated, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advices, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our southwestern frontier. In doing this, many of the regular military posts