EASTON GAZETTE.

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

VOL. XXX. EASTON, (MD) SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 21, 1847. NO. 34.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY
Saturday Morning,
BY
GEORGE C. GRAHAM.

TERMS.

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

Advertisements

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

SOFTLY WOO AWAY HER BREATH.

BY BARRY CORNWALL.

Softly woo away her breath,
Gentle Death!
Let her leave thee with no strife,
Tender, mournful, murmuring Life!
She hath seen her happy day;
She hath had her bud and blossom:
Now she pales and shrinks away,
Earth, into thy gentle bosom!

She hath done her bidding here,
Angels dear!
Bear her perfect soul above,
Seraph of the skies—sweet Love!
Good she was, and fair in youth,
And her mind was seen to soar,
And her heart was wed to truth:
Take her, then, for evermore,—
For ever—evermore!

A GALLANT YOUTH.

A short time previous to the battle of Buena Vista, a youth in New Orleans named Fremeaux, about 17 years of age, determined to join the army of General Taylor, in Mexico, and did so, much against the wishes of his friends and relatives. The New Orleans Courier thus refers to his conduct in the brilliant battle which occurred soon after he reached the enemy's country:

"When he arrived in Mexico he lost no time in finding a place where he was sure to obtain an opportunity to distinguish himself in the then approaching combat at Buena Vista. Prompt as lightning, chivalrous as Bayard, he charged the enemy with headlong courage, and continued to fight until he fell under repeated wounds of the sabre and the lance. He was left on the field, where, after the enemy retreated, he was found almost lifeless. Immediate and assiduous attention was given to him—he was slowly restored to his senses, and in a few weeks, with youth and courage to sustain him, was in a fair way of recovery. Intelligence had arrived here that he was dead, but, to the unbounded gratification of his friends, it was at length announced that not only was he alive, but more than ever prepared and resolved to make the Mexicans pay dear for the blood which he had lost."

When this brave lad left his home he was a pupil in the High School of New Orleans. His companions in that institution are about to procure a splendid sword, and forward it to him, as a token of their admiration of his courage and heroism.

REMARKABLE CAVE.—A person writing from Jay, Vt., gives the following description of a very remarkable cave, once the residence of a notorious villain, well known in the East by old settlers. The writer says:

"We visited a cave located in a spur of the Green Mountains, famous in this vicinity as the 'Cogniac Den,' ('Cogniac' being the term used here to designate counterfeiters,) and though I have visited most of the remarkable spots in New England, I am fain to confess that this exceeds them all. It is composed of four compartments—the outer one being in the form of an ellipse, 52 feet by 37, and 19 feet in height; the second compartment is somewhat smaller than the first, and of a more irregular form, and so also is the third; the fourth is the grandest hall that ever I beheld, and of a circular form, the diameter of which is 321 feet, over-arched by a magnificent dome, the extreme height of which apparently exceeds the diameter of the floor; the walls are composed of brilliant iron ore, and the light of our birch bark torches was reflected in a thousand hues, lighting the whole with the brightness of a summer's day. The regularity of the wall could not have been improved by art. In this cave the notorious Stephen Burroughs carried on his illegal occupation for some years. The villain had a good eye for the beautiful—there is no denying that."

Burroughs preached his father's old sermons of a Sunday, and engraved plates for counterfeiting bank bills through the week. He wrote a book detailing his life, and made money from the proceeds. His daughter is still in a nunnery in Three Rivers. Burroughs' last days were spent in comparative honesty. The cave described above was long occupied by this extraordinary personage.

DREADFUL AFFRAY AT LITTLE ROCK—THREE LIVES LOST.—We are informed, says the Banner of the 19th inst., that on Thursday last, in an attempt to serve a peace process, deputy sheriff Berchfield, of Saline county, was killed by the elder of two brothers named Allen, upon whom the writ was to be served. As the Allens had threatened that they would not be arrested, the sheriff summoned a posse, and, entering the house, attempted to execute the process, when one of the Allens, both of whom were armed, lowered his rifle and shot the sheriff through the body; killing him upon the spot. Upon this, one of the posse, Mr. Low, drew a pistol and killed Allen while the younger Allen fired upon Low, which was also fatal. Some one of the posse then shot the surviving Allen, the ball passing through his arm, shattering the bone and passed into the breast. The wound in his case was not mortal, and he made his escape but the officers of justice are in pursuit of him and he will, no doubt, be overtaken.

A WIFE KILLED BY HER HUSBAND.—A melancholy accident occurred near Troy, Penn. on Thursday night of last week. Some time in the night, Mrs. Pierce wife of Dr. J. B. Pierce, had occasion to go to the window of the chamber in which they were sleeping, leaving Dr. P. asleep. The raising of the window awoke him, and he instantly seized his gun, which was near his bed-side, supposing that some one was trying to break into the house. After Mrs. P. had let down the window, she advanced toward the bed—Dr. P. called out twice to stop, or he would fire; but she still advanced and he fired, when she was near the muzzle of the gun—the whole charge of shot entering her breast, and she fell dead on the floor. He then felt in the bed for his wife, to tell her he had killed some one, when not finding her, the truth flashed upon him, *that he had shot his own wife!*—*Almira Gazette.*

THE ARMY WORM is making its appearance among the Cotton in Louisiana. It appeared on a plantation one day, and on the next more than half the crops was destroyed.

The New Orleans Delta of the 25th ultimo says: This news produced, we are told, quite a stir in our market yesterday, and fully 6000 bales of Cotton were purchashed at very full, and, in some instances, at better prices. The excitement was attributed by some, partiality at least, to the reception of the Britannia's accounts.

A SCENE.—The quiet of one of the principal houses at Cape Island was disturbed last week, by the wife of a respectable merchant of this city finding, on returning from the tea table to her chamber, a young lawyer, also of this city, on terms of rather close intimacy with the maid servant, who had been left in charge of the lady's children. The indignant wife seized the intruder by the collar, and after raising the whole house by her outcries, dragged him to the great hall, and in the presence of some two hundred boarders, made his offence known. Not the least singular part of the adventure was, not two hours after he was mixing with much favor among the ladies in the evening hop. Such is the forgiving nature of woman.—*Phila. Ledger.*

FARMERS BE NOT DECEIVED.

The Albany Journal states that there are two or three facts which seem to be overlooked or forgotten by those who anticipate a permanent increased demand for agricultural produce in Great Britain:

1. The soil has lost none of its fertility.

2. The improvements in agriculture, and the new land brought into cultivation, secures an increase of production equal to the increase of population.

3. As the manufacturing laborers of Great Britain are not provided with more than half employment, twice the present amount of manufactures could be produced, without diverting a single laborer from agriculture.

4. If no laborers are diverted from agriculture, and the soil has lost none of its virtues, the aggregate product will be just as great if we import fifty or five hundred millions of manufactures.

5. If the wheat regions of Europe were successful competitors with us under the corn law restrictions, they will continue to be under free trade.

6. If Great Britain has never procured her bread from America except from compulsion, she will not do so now merely to oblige us.

7. If she heretofore imported but 14,000,000 bushels of wheat per annum—and only 1-7th or 1-10th of this from the United States—there is nothing to induce the belief that she will import more hereafter.

8. If farmers expect the tariff of '46 to secure them a large permanent foreign demand and high prices they will be as completely humbugged as were those who believed Mr. Polk a sound Protectionist because he wrote the KANE letter.

GEN. TAYLOR'S CROP.—It will be remembered that one of Gen. Taylor's plantations was recently inundated, and said to have been ruined. The sympathy for him when at Fort Brown, or afterwards at Buena Vista, was scarcely stronger than that manifested at this private misfortune. But old Mississippi himself seems powerless as Polk and Santa Anna, to turn the current of the patriot's good fortune. We now learn that the plantation was, on the subsidence of the waters, sown with cotton, and, enriched by the tribute of the Father of Waters, it promises a crop equal to any in the State. The inundation was not more successful than the eruption of Santa Anna; his crop of cotton and laurels have only been enriched and increased by what threatened to destroy them.

From the "Rough and Ready."

Hon. Philip F. Thomas.

A SHORT HISTORY OF HIS PUBLIC LIFE.

Continued from our last.

ANALYSIS.

Sec. 8 repeals the acts of March session 1841, ch. 23, of December session 1841, chs. 325, 297, 282, 194, 280, 329, "and the several supplements thereto."—These are the acts imposing the *direct tax*—*the income tax*,—*the tax on watches and plate*,—*licensing stock-brokers*, *&c.*—*the tax on theatrical amusements*,—*on ground rents*,—and providing for the collection of said taxes.—In the language of the section it proposed to repeal all laws then existing, which "imposed a tax to raise revenues to pay the interest on the public debt."

Sec. 11. provides that on the bonds herein authorised to be surrendered, (embracing all the bonds and liabilities of the State then outstanding) "all claim against the State for interest shall cease on the first day of January, 1844!!"

These sections we hope are sufficiently plain to be understood by all. They make a short settlement with the State's creditors by *repealing all the tax laws*, and declaring that no further interest should be paid upon their debts! But Mr. Thomas did not propose to *repudiate* the debt. Oh no! though he was willing to stop the *interest* upon the bonds he had voted to issue, yet at the same time, he proposed a plan illustrative of his profound wisdom, for the immediate payment of the whole *principal* of the debt! Let us examine this plan set forth in the other sections of the bill.

Sections 10 and 14—provide that the taxes due for 1841, 1842 and 1843, and the debts due from the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal companies, should be collected,—and this fund together with what might be obtained from a sale of the States's Bank and turnpike road stocks, applied "to the payment of the interest due on the public debt to the first of January 1844; and secondly of the interest and principal when due of the bonds herein authorised to be issued." It will be found by reference to the report of the Committee on Ways and Means made to the house of Delegates, in February 1844, a few days before Mr. Thomas' bill was proposed, that the interest then due upon the public debt amounted to—

$1,171,872 87

The same committee estimated the State's Bank stock at	$610,966 66
Int. due from Tide Water Ca. Co.	167,000 00
Taxes due for 1841, 1842	269,703 29
The taxes then due for 1843 might have been estimated at	40,000 00
The Treasurer in his last report puts the *par* value of the road stocks at	15,000 00
	1,362,669 95
	$1,180,797 08

Here then after disposing of the available property of the State, to the best advantage Mr. Thomas is enabled to pay the interest then due, and deposit to the credit of the State the sum of $180,097,08;—and this surplus is to be appropriated to the payment "of the interest and principal when due, of the bonds herein authorised to be issued."

Sec. 1 provides that on the holders delivering up the bonds of the State to the amount of $3,697,000 authorised to be issued to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, the Treasurer shall transfer to the parties so surrendering, shares in the Capital stock of said company, in exchange for the same at par, calculating the value of each share of stock so to be transferred *at the par value thereof!!*

Sec: 2. provides for the settlement of $500,000 of bonds authorised to be issued for the construction of the Baltimore and Washington Railroad, in the same mode, viz: by transferring to the parties surrendering said bonds, shares of stock in said Rail Road "to an amount equal to the bonds so surrendered, calculating the value of said stock at the par value thereof!!"

Sec. 3. authorises the Treasurer to subscribe for 20,000 shares of stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company;—and then provides for a settlement of all the bonds issued by the State for the construction of said work, by the transfer to the holders of an equal amount of Canal stock, calculating the same "at the par value thereof!!"

Sections 4, 5 & 13—provide for the settlement of all bonds issued by the State to aid in the construction of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road, by transferring to the holders thereof, the interest of the State in said work. It also provides that to certain of said creditors other bonds amounting to twenty five and fifty per cent interest bearing six per cent interest and payable in 1860. The whole aggregate of this new issue would have been about $400,000. This *great liberality* to these creditors will not appear strange, when we refer to the 9th section of the bill,—which reserves to the State the interest then due from the said Rail Road company,—to be distributed when collected among the creditors of said company!! The arrears of interest then due amounted to about $500,000;—until this was paid, the States assignees would not receive a dollar from their very valuable purchase!! And how long would it have taken to pay off this sum—at the rate of $20,000 per annum—the highest amount ever yet paid into the State treasury? About twenty five years, according to the *then data* before Mr, Thomas. No wonder, that, under these circumstances, his liberal spirit rebelled at the idea of cutting off these creditors with such a mere mess of unpalatable pottage, and suggested the idea of doing them *full justice*; by handing them $400,000 of State bonds in exchange for the $2,232,015,29 of the same currency then in their possession!!

Sec: 6. provides for the settlement of bonds issued for the Susquehanna and Tide Water Canal companies by authorising an assignment, to the holders thereof, of all the State's interest in the said work.

Sec: 7. provides for the settlement of the bonds issued for the construction of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Rail road, by transferring to the holders thereof an equal amount of stock in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company, calculating each share of "*the stock so transferred at the par value thereof!!*

Sec. 12 This section we do not altogether understand, as it appears totally inconsistent with the provisions of sections 6 and 10.

Here is the proposed plan of paying off the State debt *without taxation!*—wonderful evidence of the unparalleled ability of the statesman who conceived it!!

By reference to the Treasurer's report made to the Legislature at December session 1844, it will be found that the *funded debt* of the State contracted on account of the several Internal improvement companies was at the time of the conception of Mr. Thomas' bill as follows:

Construction of Balt. and Ohio R. R.	$3 697,000 00
" Balt. and Wash. R. R.	500,000 00
" Chesap. & Ohio Canal	7,191,666 67
" Balt. and Susq. R. R.	2,232,015 29
" Susq. and Tide W'p. and Elkrg. R. R.	219,721 45
" Sus. & T. W. Canal	1,000,000 00
Total	$14,843,436 41

It should be remembered that this is the *principal* of the debt. Let us look at the plan proposed for its payment. We have seen that, after selling of the bank and road stocks, &c. at their par value, and applying these with all arrearages of taxes due to the payment of arrears of interest, there would remain about $180,797,08. If we add to this the $100,000 of new bonds proposed to be issued to certain classes of the creditors; we have the amount of $580,797,08. Here then, is a settlement, so far.—The account would then stand thus—

STATE OF MD. TO BOND-HOLDERS, Dr. 1844—To money borrowed to date $14,843,436 41
" By cash $180,787 08
" By bonds renewed 400,000 00 580,797 08
Balance due $14,262,638 33

How does Mr. Thomas' bill propose to pay this balance? As we have seen, it repeals all tax laws for revenue and declares that not one dollar more of interest will be paid by the State upon this debt. Now if all interest ceased, and no provision was made for payment of the principal, we presume the creditors would have made a good bargain in exchanging their bonds for so many sheets of blank writing paper!!—But such a course on the part of the Legislature would have amounted to repudiation' and of this word, Mr. Thomas and his friends have a holy horror. He therefore, at the same time that he stopped the interest upon the debt, provided means for paying the principal. This was, by transferring to the bond holders (with some reservation) all the interest of the State in the several works for the construction of which their money had respectively been borrowed!!

Without questioning at this time the *right* of the State to *force* its creditors to take payment in such currency, let us look for a moment at the value of the property thus proposed to be transferred. By reference to the Treasurer's report made at December session 1844, it will be found that the revenue received by the State from the various Internal improvement companies, for the year ending December 1st, 1844; was as follows:

From Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road company for dividend	$45,500 00
From same 1-5 receipts on passengers on Washington Branch	41,010 29
Susq. and Tide Water Canals	10,000 00
From Balt. and Susq. Rail Road	10,000 00
From Chesapeake and Ohio Canal	nothing
From Annapolis and Elkrg. R. R.	nothing
Total	$116,540 29

As we have seen, Mr. Thomas' bill reserves to the State certain arrearages of interest due from some of those companies so that the bond-holders would in fact receive nothing from some of them for many years. But give this bill the construction most favorable to the creditors, viz: that they should take the State's entire interest in the works on the first day of January. 1844, and what is the result? Property yielding $116,540,29 per annum and worth as an investment to yield six per cent.—$1,942,338,16, is transferred in full settlement of a balance of $14,262,648,33 of bonds solemnly executed by the State of Maryland, for value received!! We think we have been sufficiently liberal to Mr. Thomas in giving the receipts from the improvement companies for the year 1844,—which we believe were higher that year than during 1843. After this further payment the account would stand thus—

STATE OF MD. TO BOND HOLDERS, Dr. Jan'y 1st, 1844.

To money borrowed to date	$14,843,436 41	
" By cash $180,797 08		
" By bonds renew'd 400,000 00		
" By sundry R. R.'s & Canals trans., market value about 1,942,338 16	2,533,125 24	
Balance unprovided for		$12,310,311 18

Here will be seen, in a nut shell, the whole object and meaning of this long and apparently confused bill. If it had become a law, Maryland, by its passage, would have said to her creditors, "Come take property worth one sixth of your claims and surrender your bonds! Do this, or you shall have nothing!" The 15th section of the bill provides for its publication in the newspapers "of this country and of Europe"—It would have been a publication to the world of our State's insolvency and dishonor. What one of the citizens travelling abroad, if the advertisement had met his eye, but would have bowed down his head with shame and mortification, and blushed to own himself a Marylander? If this measure is not positive *repudiation* it certainly amounts to *five-sixths* of it!!

What right had Maryland to force upon her creditors her unprofitable rail roads and her canals? She issued her bonds that she might borrow money upon them.—The parties loaning did not enquire *for what purpose* the money was borrowed.—They had no right to do so. The question would have been improper and impertinent,—as much so as if put by the officers of a bank to every merchant who offered a note for discount. The State and her creditors stood in the same relation. Her notes were discounted She obtained the money and saw proper to invest it in certain internal improvement companies, thinking to make handsome profits by the transaction. But the speculation turns out unfortunately. Her investment does not pay;—In the mean time her notes became due—She is solvent—and they must be paid. What kind of answer is that given by Mr. Thomas' bill to the foreign and domestic creditor, the European capitalists and the widows and orphans of our own land whose money had been advanced upon our State bonds?—"We borrowed your money—we invest it as we thought profitably—but the speculation turned out badly.—Now we do not think you ought to expect us to put ourselves to the slightest inconvenience to pay you;—but we are perfectly willing to turn over our whole interest in the speculation to you. If you don't agree to this we will not pay you a cent!—Friends! be obliging—look to your own interests—and come into the arrangement!"

Let it be remembered, that this is the same Philip Francis Thomas, who, at the session of 1838, voted to send into the market State bonds to the amount of $2,375,000!!!

We must now bring this chapter to a close. In a future communication we will continue this eventful history.

CHAPTER III.

We proceed to give other evidences of Mr. Thomas' *peculiar* notions upon the subject of the State debt.

The act laying the direct tax for the purpose of paying the interest upon the public debt was passed at March session, 1841. Its provisions created great dissatisfaction in several of the counties. It will be found, by reference to the message of Gov. Thomas to the General Assembly, at December session, 1842, that three counties—Calvert, Somerset and Worcester—had refused to appoint collectors of the tax for that year; thus absolutely *nullifying* the law. Some coercive measure being necessary to enforce a general obedience to the law, the Legislature passed the act of December session, 1842, chap. 269. The following is among its most important provisions:

"Sec. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the levy court, commissioners, or Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, as aforesaid, shall not be authorized to separate the collection of the State and county taxes in any collection district, but the same shall be collected together and by the same collector, and under one and the same bond in each collection distict."

No inconvenience could have arisen from this provision, in any county where the local authorities were disposed to enforce the collection of the State tax. But its effect upon the defaulting counties was to prevent the collections of the *county* levies, unless a collector for the *State* tax was also appointed. There could exist no well founded objection to this, as the obligation for the payment of both taxes was equally imperative. But in Talbot county, the home of Mr. Thomas, and where, as his friends represent, his influence is omnipotent, particularly with his political party,—there the loudest denunciations were raised against this unexceptionable measure. "Pursuant to notice," district meetings were held throughout the county, and delegates appointed to assemble in county convention at Easton, on the 30th of May, 1843, "to take into consideration the law of the last session of the Legislature, blending the collection of the State and county taxes, and to consult on other subjects in reference to the Direct Taxation." The following are the proceedings of this meeting as published at the time in the Democratic paper in Easton, and republished in Niles' Register, (vol. 64, p. 244):

"The meeting organized by calling Foster Maynard to the chair, and appointed John Talbott, Secretary.

The meeting was addressed by Wm. R. Price, Esq., and subsequently the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the system of *Direct Taxation, as at present enforced, or attempted to be enforced, in this State, is oppressive and unequal in its operation.*

Resolved, That the people of Talbot county are *unable to pay the said tax.*

Resolved, That the law of the last session of the Legislature, blending the collection of State and county taxes, and making the payment of the direct tax a condition precedent to the payment of the county charges, is *arbitrary, vexatious and oppressive, and ought to be repealed.*

Resolved, That believing no collector of the ordinary county taxes will serve under the present objectionable laws, and being extremely solicitous that the poor in the almshouse, and the county pensioners, and others having claims against the county, shall be amply provided for, the chairman of this meeting is hereby authorised to appoint a committee of four persons (one from each election district) who are hereby authorised and requested to confer with the commissioners of the county, and to make with them such arrangements as may be deemed expedient and appropriate for the accomplishment of the purpose contemplated and intended by this resolution.

Resolved, That this meeting most anxiously and earnestly desire the sale of the public works for the benefit of the holders of State bonds.

Resolved, on motion, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the newspapers of this town.

(The committee appointed in pursuance of the 4th resolution, is composed of the following named gentlemen.—Edward Lloyd, Nicholas Martin, Thomas Pierson and Dr. James Dawson.)

On motion the meeting adjourned *sine die.*

FOSTER MAYNARD, Ch'n."
JOHN TALBOTT, Sec'ry.

The following report, which appears in the same paper with the above, shows the proceedings of the District meeting held in the Easton district, (residence of Mr. Thomas,) prior to said County meeting:

"Pursuant to notice, a number of citizens of Easton district met at the Court house on Saturday last, and organized the meeting by calling John H Harris to the chair, and appointing Edward Lloyd secretary.

The object of the meeting being stated—to wit—to take into consideration the law of the last session of the Legislature uniting the collection of State and county taxes; and also to consider the present ability of the county to comply with the provisions of said law—and to appoint ten delegates to a county meeting to be held in Easton on Tuesday next—the following resolutions were submitted, read, and concurred in:

Resolved, That the law of the last session of the General Assembly providing for the collection of State and county charges, is, in all its provisions, unjust and oppressive, and that the said law ought, at as early a period as practicable, to be repealed.

Resolved, That in consequence of the unprecedented scarcity of means, arising mainly from the failure of the last year's crops, the people of this county are unable to comply with such provisions in said law as require the instalments of the public taxes to be paid on the first of June and September of this year.

Resolved, That this meeting appoint ten delegates to represent this election district in a county Convention to be held in Easton on Tuesday next.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be furnished to each of the newspapers printed in Easton, for publication.

In compliance with the 3d resolution, the following named gentleman were appointed delegates on the part of the meeting:

John H. Harris, H. L. Edmondson, Thomas Dawlin, Jos. R. Price, Jacob C. Wilson, Ennalls Martin, James L. Martin, James Benny, John Talbott, Edward Lloyd.

On motion the meeting adjourned *sine die.*

JOHN H. HARRIS, Ch'n."
EDWARD LLOYD, Sec'y.

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