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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For the Gazette.

ON THE DEATH OF ——.

Slow sinks the Sun, his rays are thrown,
Athwart the wintry sky;
We hear the sad and stifled moan,
Tears stand in many an eye.

In grief her clay-cold corpse they bear,
Who should have been a bride;
The father and the lover there
Are standing side by side.

The day which gives her death for life,
—Nor love, nor prayers, could save—
She would have been a wedded wife;
Her bridal bed's the grave.

Well may they weep thy early doom,
Their hearts with grief o'erflow,
At such a summons to the tomb,
So sharp, so swift the blow.

Nay, 'tis not well they so should weep;
Death may not so appal;
There waits the form that peaceful sleep,
A brighter festival.

A morn shall come, that glorious morn,
When echoing all around,
On wings of mighty winds upborn,
The Archangel's triumph shall sound.

The marriage of the lamb that day,
Shall fill all heaven with joy;
The saints arise in bright array,
The bliss without alloy.

Fair Spirit angels then shall say,
Welcome to thine abode,
This is thine own, thy bridal day,
Thy husband is thy God.

CHRISTMAS 1847.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE
Concluded.

I cannot omit bringing to your notice the conduct of a citizen of Maryland who has been for many years past, and is now a resident of London, to which my attention has been directed within a few days past, as illustrative of the deep interest felt by our citizens abroad in the determination to which you have come to restore the credit of their State. Under the provisions of the act of 1835, commissioners were appointed to negotiate the loan authorised by that act, two of whom received the compensation to which they were entitled under its provisions; but Mr. George Peabody, the gentleman to whom I have reference, has never claimed or received one dollar of compensation, as one of those commissioners. I am informed that while the State was struggling with her pecuniary difficulties, he felt unwilling as one of her citizens to add to her burthens; and I am now officially informed that he relinquishes his claim to compensation, feeling himself sufficiently remunerated for his services by the restored credit of his State.

I have not seen the report of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company; but have learned indirectly that the dividend of three per cent. declared for the present year, is to be paid to the city of Baltimore in the bonds of the company, and to the other stockholders, (including the State,) in cash. The State has therefore received her dividend for the last year; but the dividend of the preceding year still remains unpaid. The suit instituted for its recovery by the Attorney General under resolution No. 65 of the last session, is now pending in the Court of Appeals; and its result will be communicated to you by that officer, prior to your adjournment.—The prosperity of the State is deeply involved in the successful prosecution of this noble enterprise. The original design of this work, as of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, was by connecting the Ohio river with the Chesapeake bay at Baltimore, to secure to the State the vast trade of the West, and thereby raise that city in the scale of commercial importance to the elevated position which her central location and the energy and enterprise of her citizens entitle her to occupy. But this great work, which by the express limitation of its charter and supplements was to have been completed in 1842, still has its western terminus at Cumberland, and the great advantages which were expected from it have not been, and cannot be, realised until it reaches the Ohio river, its contemplated western terminus. In suggesting the course which should in my judgment be taken by you, to secure the completion of a work so momentously important to the State, I am conscious that I shall be misrepresented by some, whose habit it has been to vituperate all who have formed conclusions, or entertained and expressed opinions different from those which they have done the *world* the honor to enunciate. I shall however, gentlemen, discharge what I conceive to be my duty to the State, leaving it to your judgment, and to time, and the sober reflection of the people, to do me justice. You are aware that for several years past the public attention has been directed to two points upon the Ohio river, as the western terminus of this road; the one at Pittsburg, and the other at or below Wheeling. It is not my province to decide, nor do I intend to intimate a preference of one over the other of these points, as the proper terminus for this work. But looking to the struggle of our sister States to grasp the trade which it was the design of this work to secure to our commercial city, I start with the position, that possessing the power, it will be plainly your duty, before the privilege conferred by the legislation of Pennsylvania and Virginia to make the road to either point is lost to us, to determine that the privilege *shall be availed of*, to make the road to one or the other of these points—In the consideration of this subject, it must also be remembered that the legislature will not again assemble for two years, and that your successors will not have the power over it which you now possess.—If therefore you should omit to exercise the power with which you are clothed, and the authority to construct the road to the Ohio river should be consequently lost, the evil effects of that omission will be irretrivable. I propose to present my views in a very few sentences by inviting your consideration first, of the power which you possess over this subject, and secondly, of the object for which that power should be exercised. Your control over this subject arises from two sources. First, by reason of the non user of the State bonds appropriated by the act of 1835, chapter 395, for the completion of this work, within the time expressly limited in the charter of this company, and its supplements, you have now the legal right to direct the application of those bonds to the construction of the road by any route to the Ohio river, which you may decide to be the best and most practicable. Secondly, your power over this subject flows from your right to appoint ten directors to represent the State at the board of the company. This Board is composed of thirty directors, of whom eight are appointed by the city of Baltimore, twelve by the private stockholders, and ten by the State.

In a board thus constituted, the appointment by you of ten directors with a view to effect a particular object, and that object so vitally important as the connection of the city of Baltimore with the Ohio river, by a continuous railroad, would have great weight. If, in addition to this, you should appoint directors whose opinions are known to agree with you in reference to the object you have concluded to effect, their united vote would be cast to effect the result determined on, and would (with the declaration by you that the bonds of the State now in the hands of this Company should be applied only as prescribed by you,) ensure the concurrence of the board. The only object which you can desire to effect by the exercise of the power for which I have contended, will be the completion of this road to the Ohio river, without further delay; and the only inquiry of vital importance will be, whether the company possess the means to construct the road by either of the routes which they have the authority to take, or whether they have the ability to complete the road by only of those routes. The calamities which have heretofore befallen the State from the over estimate of the means, and under estimates of the cost of completing the various works with which the State is connected, sufficiently demonstrate the importance of this inquiry to ensure its full consideration by you; and it only remains for me to suggest the manner in which the inquiry may be conducted to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. By the examination of the engineers, who have surveyed both routes you can readily ascertain the relative cost of each; and you can require of the directors on the part of the State a candid exhibit of the means possessed by the company to construct the road by either route.—This information will enable you to decide, without difficulty, the all important question whether the company possesses the means of finishing the road by either or only one of these routes. Should you come to the conclusion, which I trust you may, that the company have the means with the aid of the bonds of the State now held by them, to complete the road by the more expensive of the two routes, (which is understood to be the route preferred by the board, as now constituted,) I would advise the continuance of such of the present directors as are known to be in favor of that route, and the substitution of others in the place of those who are known to be opposed to the adoption of that route.—But, if, upon a full investigation of the question, you should conclude that the means of the company including the State bonds, are inadequate, or of doubtful sufficiency to ensure the speedy completion of the road by this route, it will be clearly incumbent on you to use all the power with which you are clothed to secure the selection of the other and less expensive route, by which it is admitted that the road may be completed with the present means of the company. It would be an irreparable calamity to the city of Baltimore, and to the State, if her bonds in the hands of this company were used in the construction of this work without adequate additional means of completion. I must, gentlemen, invoke for this subject, your serious consideration, and I shall rejoice at any conclusion to which you may come by which this noble enterprise will be speedily consummated.

I have received from the commissioner of loans, a copy of the record of bonds issued by him for coupons, under the provisions of the act of December session, 1846, chapter 238, and which I now transmit to you, as required by the third section of that act. I also transmit two letters received from that officer, in reply, to letters of inquiry addressed to him, asking for information as to the probable amount of interest to be funded, under the provision of that act, from which you will see that the amount will be under $900,000.

The acts of assembly which provide for the tuition of the blind and deaf and dumb, require the Governor to report annually to the legislature, the amount expended for those objects. In the past year the sum of $600, has been paid for the education of the blind, and $1,344.86, for the education of the deaf and dumb.

By resolution No 3, of December session, 1844, the sum of $3000 was appropriated to be expended by me in repairing and furnishing the Government House.—I respectfully request that you will appoint a committee to examine the vouchers which I have preserved, showing the expenditure of this fund.

As directed by resolution No. 27 of the last session, I have delivered to the Maryland Historical Society, such books and papers as appeared to be indicated by that resolution, and I have caused the receipt of the society, embracing a catalogue of the books and papers to be recorded with the executive proceedings.

By resolution No. 54 of the last session the Governor was directed to pay to the commissioner appointed under resolution No. 36, of December session 1845 in relation to the public buildings, the sum of three hundred dollars. Two of the commissioners named in the resolution of 1845, claiming to have discharged the whole duty imposed by that resolution, and to be entitled to the whole compensation, I have paid them two hundred dollars, and have left the residue in the treasury to be paid as you may think right. I have received and now transmit for your information the annual report of the Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary. This document, prepared with more than ordinary ability, contains many valuable suggestions of reference to the management of the institution, &c. will worthy of to one of which I particularly request your attention. The report states that there are now confined in the Penitentiary fourteen convicts who are, and a majority of whom were insane at the time they were sent to that institution, and the directors request such legislation as will authorize their removal to a more appropriate place of confinement. The benevolence and humanity of this suggestion will commend it to your consideration, and will be sufficient to command your favorable action.

Having always entertained the opinion that the executive power of remitting the punishment prescribed for the infraction of the criminal law should be put rarely exercised, I have during my term of service granted *nolle prosequis* but in two cases; and I have not, except in a single instance granted a pardon without the recommendation of the Judges before whom the party had been tried. If I have erred upon this subject, it has been an error of judgment, persisted in very frequently, when my feelings would have dictated a different course. I have, however, the satisfaction to believe that the increased certainty of punishment, caused by such an exercise of this power, has lessened in some degree the frequency of crime; and that my course upon this subject so difficult and harrassing to myself, has proved beneficial to society.

I have received, and now transmit resolutions of the Legislatures of the States of Connecticut & Rhode Island in favor of the construction of a railroad across the continent of North America, and resolutions of the General Assembly of the former State upon the subject of the existing war with Mexico, declaring "that if any territory shall hereafter be acquired by the United States or annexed thereto, the act by which such territory is acquired or annexed, whatever such act may be, should contain an unalterable fundamental article or provision, whereby slavery shall be forever excluded from the territory acquired or annexed."—Whilst the sources from which these resolutions have emanated entitle them to a respectful consideration, the subject and character of the latter resolution will claim your particular attention.

The constitution of the United States secures to the citizens of any territory belonging to the United States the right to have that territory admitted as one of the U. States, with such republican form of government as they may choose to adopt, or may deem most conducive to their happiness; and no State has the constitutional right to interfere with, or restrict the rights thus secured to the citizens of such territory; nor have the congress of the United States the constitutional power to prescribe whether slavery shall or shall not exist within the the limits of such new State, it being exclusively the right of the citizens of such territory to decide that, and all such questions for themselves.

Whilst I admit that every State has a right to declare, whether territory conquered by the United States shall be held by or annexed to the United States, as a part of the territory thereof; I deny the right of any State or of the United States, to prescribe for such territory *if acquired* any condition not recognised by the constitution as incident to the other territories of the United States. My respect for the State from which it emanated will not permit me to speak of the injustice of a resolve, by which the citizens of the slave States would be excluded with their property from territory, which, if annexed will have been acquired by conquest, achieved by the blood and treasure of the whole Union.

I wish, gentlemen, that I could close this communication without adverting to a subject, which it gives me great pain to be obliged to bring to your attention.—The course pursued by the authorities and citizens of Pennsylvania towards the Executive and citizens of this State, upon the subject of fugitive slaves, clearly demonstrates the inadequacy of existing constitutional and legal provisions to protect our citizens in the enjoyment of their rights over this portion of their property. The first section of the act of 1838, chapter, 63, declares that the escape of a slave from this State into any other state shall be deemed a felony; and third section makes it the duty of the Governor, upon presentation to him of proof of the fact, by affidavit or indictment, to demand such slave as a fugitive from justice, from the proper authorities of the State into which the slave may have escaped. On the ninth of February last, I issued a requisition upon the Governor of Pennsylvania, for the delivery to the agent of this State of negroes Charles and Ellick Gray; and on the 27th of March of the same year, a requisition for the delivery of Samuel Lockwood, charged with the offence of escaping from their masters, into the State of Pennsylvania. The first requisition was based upon affidavits, and the second upon an indictment in Washington county court, charging the felony specified in the act of 1838, to which I have referred. The Governor of Pennsylvania refused in both cases to gratify my demands and accompanied his refusal in the latter case, with the opinion of the Attorney General of that State, declaring that the act of the General Assembly of this State of 1838 was deemed unconstitutional by the authorities of Pennsylvania.

After this decision, the citizens of Maryland could only rely, in regard to Pennsylvania, upon the redress afforded by the act of Congress of 1793, chapter 152.—Shortly after this decision was known, several persons belonging to citizens of Pennsylvania, escape into [illegible] owners determined to take the course prescribed by this act of Congress. They accordingly went to Pennsylvania, and having proved their property, and obtained from the proper authorities of that State the required certificate, they arrested their slaves, and were bringing them to this State, when they were resisted by an overwhelming number of the citizens, of that Commonwealth, who proceeded to take from them a portion of their slaves by violence, which resulted in the death of Mr. Kennedy, an estimable and valuable citizen of this State. I will bring to your notice another case before I offer any comments upon the subject. On the 25th of April last, I demanded of the Governor of Pennsylvania, as a fugitive from justice, Isaac Brown, the slave of Mr Alexander Somerville, of Calvert County, who had been indicted for an attempt to assassinate his master.—The Governor in this case issued his warrant for the arrest and delivery of the criminal to the agent of this State. He was arrested in Philadelphia, and after a protracted trial before one of the tribunals of that city, involving the legality of the Governor's warrant, the court directed his delivery to the officer of this State; and to avoid the threatened violence of the populace, the court placed the criminal in the custody of the sheriff, until the agent of Maryland could with safety take charge of him. Immediately after the case was supposed to have been thus terminated, a writ of *habeas corpus* was issued by some other tribunal than that before which the case had been tried, and the criminal was rescued by the populace, and placed beyond the reach of the officer of this State. You have therefore, in the two first cases the decision of the Executive of Pennsylvania, that fugitive slaves made felons, by our act of 1838, cannot be demanded as fugitives from justice. You have in the third case evidence of the *successful* determination of the citizens of that State, that fugitive slaves shall not be given up, when that object is sought to be attained in the manner prescribed by the act of Congress.—And you have in the latter case, the fact that *a slave* indicted for an attempt to murder *his master* cannot be delivered up for trial by the authorities of that State, when demanded in strict accordance with the constitution of the United States, and the act of Congress passed to make effectual this declared object of that instrument.

The institution of slavery existed in Maryland long before the revolution, by the act of British subjects, and by the authority and sanction of the government of Great Britain. This introduced and existing, the rights of property of the citizens of each State, over their slaves was as fully recognised, and intended to be as fully protected by the constitution of the United States, as the rights of property of the citizens over any other subject.

The 2nd section of the 4th article of the constitution of the United States was designed to perform the double office of recognising the title, and protecting the rights of the master. It was subsequently found that some legislation by congress was requisite to prescribe the manner in which the rights of the citizens of each State intended to be secured by that article of the constitution, should be enforced within the jurisdiction of the other States; and the act of Congress referred to, of 1793, chapter 152, was passed for that object. The protection thus afforded was adequate for many years; and until the spirit of abolition became an active political element in some of the non slave holding States, the plain requisition of the constitution and law of the United States upon this subject was conformed to by the authorities and citizens of all the States. But since the introduction of this fanatical spirit, the harmony which had existed between all the States of this Union has been frequently interrupted, and now the constitutional right of the citizens of a slave State to demand and receive his slaves when they escaped to a non-slaveholding State, if not disregarded by the authorities, is successfully resisted with impunity by the citizens of that State. I have gentlemen, reluctantly referred to this subject. It is one of momentous importance, involving in its possible consequences the dissolution of the Union, and consequent destruction of the best government which has ever been instituted by human wisdom. It is a subject which should not be approached by you with feelings of anger towards our brethren of other States. It should be considered with forbearance, and with the determination, by an appeal to the sense of justice—to the patriotism and love of country—and to the honor and better feelings of our national brethren, to avert the calamities which must flow from their persistance in the course of action indicated by me, upon this unfortunate subject. I cannot but believe gentlemen, that a proper appeal by you to our sister State of Pennsylvania, made in a spirit of frankness and friendly expostulation, would meet with such a response and such legislative action by her, as would remove all future cause of apprehension and complaint. Make the trial gentlemen, in the spirit I have suggested, and the responsibility of other than favorable consequences, will rest with others.

Having always entertained the opinion which I have never heard controverted, that each State possesses the constitutional power to declare what acts shall be considered felonies within her own limits, I cannot think the argument to which I have referred of the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, can have successfully controverted this is to my mind.

I regret that I have no opportunity of examining the argument embraced in that paper; when it was received I enclosed it with the letter of the Governor to the Attorney General of this State, with the request that he would examine the subject, and give me his opinion for your information. I have neither received from the Attorney General of Maryland, the opinion which I enclosed to him, nor his opinion, but I suppose both will be received in a few days, when they shall be immediately transmitted to you.

I am sure, Gentlemen, I may claim your indulgence for referring to one other subject, of deep interest to the whole country. I allude to the War with Mexico, which has been conducted to the present moment with unabated activity. The intimate relations and mutual dependence of the Federal and State Government, will warrant at all times the expression by the latter of the opinions entertained by them, favorable or adverse to the policy and measures of the former, particularly upon a subject involving the mighty consequences which now manifestly belong to this. The brilliant victories achieved by the American Armies, unsurpassed in the annals of history, have resulted in the conquest of a large portion of the territory of Mexico; and the policy of the Federal Executive now fully developed, to annex that territory or a portion thereof to the United States, will present a question more difficult of decision, and more pregnant with important results to the country, than any which has occurred since the organization of the Government. It will, Gentlemen, be your province to examine this subject, and if you can come with any degree of unanimity to a conclusion as to the policy which will most certainly advance the public prosperity without endangering the perpetuity of the Union; it will be your duty to declare that conclusion, as the opinion of Maryland upon this difficult and important subject. In looking to this war apart from the national glory won by the Armies of the Republic, the talent which it has developed, will arrest universal attention. The name of Gen. Scott had been inscribed in the written history of his country, and his recent victories will occupy a distinguished place in its future annals. The name of General Taylor, but for this war, would have been unknown to many of his countrymen; it now commands the respect and admiration of other nations, and fills the hearts of the American people with a devotion unexampled since the days of Washington.

His intimate acquaintance with the existing relations of this country with Mexico, and the purity of purpose and sterling good sense manifested by all that he has said or done, will I am persuaded fully justify the wisdom of the determination plainly evinced by his fellow citizens, to confer on him the highest office in the gift of the Republic.

I do not indulge a hope that the peace of the country will be restored, until these indications of the times have been realized; and the Executive functions of the Federal Government have passed into other hands.

In looking to the three great interests of the State, it is gratifying to observe that no one of them has been more rapidly developed in the past few years, than her great agricultural interest. Agriculture has now become a science, to which that great class of your constituents engaged in its pursuit, are devoting themselves, with a zeal and perseverance worthy of its pre-eminent importance.

The central position of our State, and the completion of those great arteries of trade—the works of internal improvement to which I have referred—must speedily raise her to her legitimate position in the scale of commercial importance; and the prosperity of the third great interest (the mechanical) will be secured by that of the two others, upon which it depends.

In a few days gentlemen, the official relations which exist between us will cease; and if I may be permitted in the retirement to which I go, to indulge the hope that I have contributed in any degree to the prosperity which manifestly awaits all the great interests of the State, I shall not regret the personal sacrifices incident to the abandonment of my professional pursuits, for the discharge of those official duties.—I wish I could command language adequate to express my gratitude to the people of the State and their representatives in the legislature, for the uniform support given to all the measures which I have recommended. Be assured gentlemen, that I shall cherish through life the most profound gratitude, and the sincerest wishes for the happiness and prosperity of your constituents and yourselves.

THOMAS G. PRATT.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
Governor Thomas.

Gentleman of the Senate and of the House of Delegates:

Selected by the people of Maryland to preside over the Executive Department of the Government, for the ensuing three years, I enter upon the discharge of the important duties pertaining to that station, with, I trust, a just estimate of the responsibility I am about to incur, and with a determined purpose, to the utmost of my ability, to support the constitution and laws, and to maintain, unimpaired, the honor and faith of the State. Among the [illegible] into the late political canvass, and to the consideration of which popular intelligence was earnestly invoked, none enlisted a larger share of public interest and attention, than the question of Conventional Reform. That grave measure, in all its aspects and bearings, was freely and unreservedly discussed in every County of the State, before large and intelligent assemblages of the people, and to its advocacy, there is reason to believe the result of the recent Gubernatorial election, is mainly attributable. For many years past, the subject of Reform in the organic law of the State, through the agency of a convention of delegates, to be chosen immediately by the people for that purpose, has agitated the public mind.—Formed at an early period of the revolutionary war, and in the midst of the excitement incident to so eventful a struggle, the product of the united wisdom of the purest and most patriotic men of that memorable epoch, the constitution of Maryland, although far from illustrating the perfection of republican government, was nevertheless, as well adapted to the exigency of the times, as could reasonably have been expected; and all things considered, was doubtless the very best, of which existing circumstances allowed. More than seventy years have elapsed, since the adoption of that instrument. Within that period, three generations have passed away, and the social condition of the people has undergone a total change. Large portions of territory then barely known, and wholly uninhabited, have since been erected into Counties, and become densely populated. The gigantic hills and beautiful valleys of Western Maryland, no longer a trackless wilderness, but placed, everywhere, in subjection to the art of man, now teem with abundant harvests, the rich reward of the skill and toil of a numerous, intelligent and thrifty yeomanry. Baltimore, the emporium and pride of Maryland, at that time, scarcely more than a village, has expanded into a majestic City, the seat of science and the arts; ranking in importance as the fourth commercial mart of the country—numbering a population of more than a hundred thousand souls, and possessing already one third of the entire wealth of the State. In the onward progress of invention, new and diversified objects of employment and of profit, have been rapidly developing, and channels of wealth hitherto unexplored, are constantly opening to the enterprise and industry of our citizens. With these striking mutations, both in territory and population, no corresponding change has been effected in the constitution of Maryland. The experience of three quarters of a century, as well in the science as in the practical affairs of government, has contributed little towards the adaptation of our system to the altered circumstances, the multiplied wants and varied interests of the communnity; and there is just reason to fear, that through culpable supineness, and the blighting influence of local prejudice and sectional jealousy, the vital principle of representative republics, has been forgotten or overlooked. True it is, that by legislative en-

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