STAR.

General Advertiser.

EASTON:—*TUESDAY MORNING.*
NOVEMBER 14, 1809.

Legislature of Maryland.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1809.

The day appointed by the Constitution for the meeting of the Legislature of this State, *Fifty-six* members appeared; and, after qualifying agreable to the Constitution, they proceeded to the election of a Speaker: on counting the ballots, it appeared that Tobias E. Stansbury, Esquire, was duly elected. The House then proceeded to the appointment of the following officers:—Mr. John Brewer, *Clerk;* Mr. William S. Green, *Assistant Clerk;* Mr. Cornelius Mills, *Sergeant at arms;* and Mr. John Sullivan, *Door-keeper.* It was then ordered, that Messrs. Spencer and Davis inform the Rev. J. Wyatt, that the House request that he will perform divine service every morning during the Session.

The speaker laid before the house a letter from the trustee of the state, enclosing his accounts.

A message was received from the Senate acquainting the house that they had formed a quorum, and were ready to proceed on business. The house responded a similar reply; and mentioned that their hours of session were from 9 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Leave to bring in the following Bill was granted, viz. to fix the mode of electing Senators to represent this State in the Senate of the United States, and a committee was appointed, by ballot, to bring in the same.

It was then ordered, that Mr. Seth, Mr. Bowles, and Mr. Archer, be a committee to report such rules as are proper to be observed during the present session. And that, Mr. Worthington and Mr. Calvert wait upon his Excellency the Governor, and inform him that the house are ready to proceed to public business, and to receive any communications he may think proper to lay before them.

The house then adjourned.

Tuesday, November 7.

The house met at the usual hour; fourteen additional members appeared and qualified. The speaker then laid before the house a letter from the auditor, enclosing the account of the Treasurer of the Western Shore, to Nov. 1st 1809, and an estimate of the State debt.

Messrs. H. G. S. Key, L. Gassaway, M. Denny, T. Murphy, and S. Bradford, were appointed, by ballot, Committee clerks.

Leave was given to bring in the following bills; viz. A bill concerning crimes and punishments.—A bill for the valuation of real and personal property in this state. A bill to ascertain the salary of members of the Council for the ensuing year.—A bill to alter all such parts of the Constitution and Form of Government of this state, as relate to voters, and qualification of voters:—and a bill regulating the powers of the County Courts in criminal proceedings.

A message was received from the Senate, announcing the appointment of Messrs. Patridge, L. Dorsey, Williams, Glenn and Parnell, as a Committee to join such gentlemen as the house of delegates might appoint to form a committee of both houses to compare and examine all bills from time to time during this session, as soon as they shall be severally engrossed. To which the house returned the following return. We have received your message of this day, and have appointed Messrs. Bland, Randall, Hall, Brent, Davis, Forwood and Stephens, a committee on the part of this house, to join the gentlemen named by you, to compare and examine the engrossed bills.

The following Committees were appointed;—Messrs. Worthington, Tabbs, Seth Chapman and Frazier, a committee to examine the returns of elections, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Messrs. Angier, Schley, Prideaux, Davis, Bland, Physick and Hilleary, were appointed a committee of claims.

Messrs. Kerr. Brent and Boyle, were appoiated a committee to report what laws expire with the present session.

Messrs. Bowles, J. Brown, Boyle, Bayly and Herbert, were appointed a committee of grievances, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

The following petitions were presented *viz.* A Petition from sundry inhabitants of Dorcheser county, praying the repeal of a law preventing the setting of wears in Babbin creek;—A petition from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, and others, of Charles county, praying, they may be authorised to dispose of certain real property; and a petition from Samuel Caple, of Baltimore county, praying that the surnames of Samuel, William and Jacob Cole, may be changed to Caple, which were severally read and referred.

The clerk of the senate delivered a communication from the executive, with enclosures respecting a site for a manufactory of arms; & also enclosures from the governor of Massachusetts, respecting amendments to the constitution of the United States; which were read and referred to different committees.

The house then adjourned.

BRENT'S RESOLUTIONS.

On Thursday last William L. Brent, Esq. from Washington County, introduced into the Legisture of this State the subjoined resolutions. Mr. Brent, in introducing them, observed, that he felt himself obliged to do it from a duty he owed to his country and to his constituents. He was well aware that the ground he was about to tread upon was somewhat exposed; but that he had cautiously explored its every winding, and should proceed on his way, regardless and fearless of the consequences which might ensue. He then said, that, had not the majority in the late house of Delegates abandoned the elevated stand they ought to have occupied, by descending into the bathos of party denunciation of measures, he never would have introduced resolutions similar to those he then held in his hand; but imperious duty demanded their introduction, in order to counteract the effect of the resolutions entered into at the last November session, the object of which was to enrage the public mind against the government of their country, and to fan the flame of party prejudice and violence;—he observed that the resolutions alluded to, would record an eternal disgrace upon the annals of the Legislature, if not corrected by other resolutions; and, for that reason alone, he moved the following:

WHEREAS, certain resolutions were entered into by the "House of Delegates" of the General Assembly of Maryland, at the last November session, the object of which, was to impress a belief upon the public mind, that the citizens of the State of Maryland viewed the act passed by Congress, "imposing an Embargo, and the several "acts supplementary thereto, as constituting a portentous system of unnecessary, impolitic, and unprecedented "restraint upon the foreign trade and "domestic intercourse of these United "States;" and also directing "the senators and repretentatives from this state, "in the Congress of the United States, "to exert themselves with all convenient diligence in endeavours to procure a speedy relief from the operation of the aforesaid act, and the several acts supplementary thereto;" And *whereas* "the public will" has been lately expressed by "the public voice itself" in the election for the immediate representative branch of this legislature, so as to leave no doubt, what the real, true and unveiled sentiments of the people of Maryland are, relative to that important and politic measure of our government, so far as their sentiments at this time can be ascertained by their supporting a policy of a similar nature, and by their electing, as members of this body, men who were the warm advocates and active friends of every leading measure of the late administration: And WHEREAS, the late "public voice" has shewn, conclusively, to every unprejudiced and impartial mind, that the success, so much boasted of, in the said resolutions, by the majority of the late "house of delegates," must have proceeded from the many misrepresentations and deceptions made and used to deceive and ensnare the ungarded voter, and not from any real change in the political tenets of the state. And WHEREAS to correct and counteract the false impressions which may have been made upon the public mind by the proceedings of the majority in the "house of delegates," at their last November session, touching a measure so extensively interesting to the whole American people, and in order to remove the unfavorable opinion of the politics of this state, which the false colouring of the majority in the last "house of delegates," may have created in our sister states, it is a duty which the members of the present Assembly owe to the country, their constituents and themselves, to express a true and solemn declaration of their sentiments, as to the measures of the late and present administrations of the general government, and to set forth those feelings of unqualified disapprobation which the said resolutions have excited; Therefore

Resolved, That it is "the conscientious belief and unbiassed conviction" of this Legislature, representing the interests, and speaking the sentiments of the independent freemen of Maryland, that the aforesaid act imposing an Embargo, & the several acts, supplementary thereto, were WISE, EFFICIENT, and DIGNIFIED measures, rendered indispensably necessary by the unjust and illegal proceedings of the belligerents of Europe, and the convulsed and unprecedented state of the world, as the only adviseable alternatives between a destructive and calamitous war, and the humiliating surrender of our national honor and independence;—that the many evils which were stated to have flowed from the adoption of the said Embargo, and the gloomy picture of its consequences portrayed by the aforesaid resolutions, were contrary to the good opinion and to the general sentiments of a large majority of the free and independent voters of this State;—that so far from proscribing and spiriting away "the existence of commercial enterprize," it must be obvious to every reflecting and dispassionate mind, that the object of our Government was to secure it ultimately to the citizens of the United States, by contending for principles and demanding acknowledgments of those just rights without which our commerce will always be precarious and exposed;—that the very policy so much censured, protected and promoted the interests of our country, by withdrawing from the rapacious and piratical plunderers of the ocean, our property to an immense and incalculable amount,—by rescuing from seisure and bondage, our "brave and hardy tars,"—by diverting a portion of our wealth and attention to the establishment of those manufactories which are necessary to our subsistence, essential to our independence, and which have, in the short lapse of two years, succeeded to an extent surpassing the most sanguine calculations of the many honest, ingenious and industrious mechanics with which the United States abound;—that the "jeolousies and discontent, distrust, suspicion, and alarm," and the violation of "the sovereignty of the laws," may with more correctness be attributed to the opponents of the late administration, who have united into one body, and particularly to their leaders, who, by their feigned and uniform disapprobation, of every measure pursued by the late administration, however wise and virtuous, have shewn and evinced a determination not to "sheath the sword of opposition" until it had reached its destruction and overthrow, and that their opposition has been aided by the specious misrepresentations and insidious exertions of the friends of the great belligerents of Europe, and by the conduct of artful and designing men, who seek their own aggrandizement through the distresses of their fellow-citizens and the commotions of their native country; that the insolent boastings of the British ministry originated not so much from a disregard of the operations of the embargo, as from a confident hope of its speedy removal, and a desire to promote the success, to further the views, and to verify the predictions of that party in this country, which it conceived most compliant to its wishes, and most friendly to its interests; that the adoption of the said resolutions by a majority of the late "House of Delegates" may have had the most injurious tendency; that it is feared, by some unfortunate concurrence of circumstances, (which the great wisdom of the majority of the late "House of Delegates" might not have foreseen) they have gone in aid of the system of measures adopted by both England & France, and particularly in England, to embarrass the government of our country, and to effect its downfall and humiliation, for they were entered into and passed the house of delegates at the very moment when that system of measures, if they could succeed, would have had their effect; that as serious and as awful as the declaration is, it is our firm belief our differences with the two great belligerents might have been settled long before this, had it not been for the opposition made to the late great leading measures of our government by "a party within ourselves;" that the late treacherous and dishonourable conduct upon the part of one of the great and powerful nations of Europe, in disavowing the acts of her minister with the government of our own country, must have been instigated in part by the differences existing amongst our citizens, and from a hope that she might find friends in our national councils, or by the many resolutions which have been entered into by the opponents to the late administration of the general government, similar to and advancing the same sentiments contained in the resolutions adopted by a majority of the late "house of delegates" at the last November session; that effects the most beneficial have followed the adoption of the embargo, and they have not failed to attract the just appreciation of a vast majority of the patriotic people of these United States; that unfortunately for our common country, the blessings of that policy have not been discovered, or if discovered, not approved of by that fraction of the people styling themselves by a particular party appellation, and of whose sentiments the majority of the late "house of delegates" largely partook; & that this legislature are of the opinion that the said resolutions were founded TOTALLY in error, and contrary to the fact.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the measures adopted, and the policy pursued, by the late administration.

Resolved, That we have the fullest confidence in the patriotism, virtue and wisdom, of the present administration, and that we freely pledge our support to the general government, upon the adoption of any measures calculated to protect the rights or to avenge the wrongs of our country.

FOR THE STAR.

AN ORATION

To the Chestertown Polemic Society, on the utility of polemic institutions.

BY THE PRESIDENT.

MAN is a being formed for society. It is in this capacity that he is capable of receiving or communicating knowledge. It is in this capacity, that reason, the glory of human nature, and the distinguishing characteristic between man and the irrational animals, is discovered and exercised. This is obvious from history, and experience; as in the case of the 'wild man,' exhibited to the 'Royal Society.' Who was incapable of speech, or comparison of ideas, and appeared scarcely equal to some of the animals, in sagacity. For notwithstanding as Seneca says, "Semina artium omnium insita nobis." The seeds of all arts are implanted within us; yet it requires cultivation to bring these seeds into vegetation and maturity.—The human mind in this sense, may be compared to an electric jar in a positive state, which always contains, and conceals the latent sparks, until an object is applied to attract them into actual existence; so the object must be presented to the mind before its latent faculties will operate with energy and precision. Now, the object of our Society is the improvement of our minds in useful knowledge; to call forth what latent faculties there may exist, and improve those already called forth to greater perfection, to improve ourselves in history, argumentation, and eloquence, and surely we may add, in the principles of justice and virtue. "For none's truly great but he that's truly good."

The difference between mankind very much depends upon their education. 'Learning and philosophy, says a great writer, have raised the Europeans as much above the Hottentotts as they are above the Brutes. It is generally agreed that Egypt was the original seat of the arts and sciences, and communicated them to the Greeks, through the instrumentality of Cecrops, who passed to Athens, and colonized, civilized, and moralized the Athenians; for so uncultivated were they, that they paid no regard to the marriage contract, but mankind were produced by accidental rencounters. He was succeeded by amphyction, who by his great eloquence and address, united twelve states of Greece into a body politic, and made Athens a place of unrivalled learning and wisdom, having established the Amphyctionic council, so celebrated for wisdom and jurisprudence, being instrumental in producing a Lycurgus, Solon, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Demosthenes.

From Greece, the sciences passed to Rome, from Rome to Briton, and from Briton to *America.*

Having mentioned cursorily, the progress of science, let us attend more particularly to the origin and utility of societies, or social combinations for the mutual improvement of the mind. In the reign of Charles 2d. was instituted 'the Royal Society' of London, which formed, as some think, 'the Augustan age of Briton,' and was instrumental in producing a Milton, Barrow, Boyle, Temple, Dryden, Otway, Locke, Addison, and a *Newton.* And in the reign of George, 2d. was instituted the 'Royal Academy,' whereby philosophy was improved, the pulpit assumed a more correct and nervous style, and Architecture was brought to a perfection unknown for many ages; having produced a Pope, Watts, Young, Brown, Hunter, Hume, Kaimes, and a multitude of literary names.—And in France, was instituted, in the reign of Lewis, 14. the "Academie Francoise," consisting of three Academies in Paris united, instrumentally producing the great Descartes, D'Alembert, and a multitude of learned names sufficient to fill a volume.

And in Philadelphia, was instituted, in 1762, "the American Philosophical Society," originating from a Society founded by Dr. Franklin, called the 'Junto,' more difinified in nature, than in name; for the express purpose, according to his own words, of discussing questions in "morality, politics, and philosophy;" in which that Newton of America shone like the sun in his splendor, irradiating this new world with political, chemical, and philosophical light, directing his universal genius not only to domestic economy, but to the establishment of various useful institutions; as the Hospital, and University of Pennsylvania, and affording materials and a plan in a great measure, for the Boston "American Academy of Arts and Sciences;" the place of his nativity—And to consumate all, he actually realized the fable of Prometheus, in bringing fire from heaven, causing it to "glance on his rod, and by his guidance turn," saving our houses and lives from the force of the most powerful, and irresistable agent in nature. Hail Father of America! Citizen of the world, and universal friend to man! Thy fame shall be perpetuated, till rolling years shall cease to move!

Thus we see that Societies, or social combinations of this kind, have been instrumental in producing some of the greatest, best, and most useful men in the world. Hence the utility of them is obvious to every reflecting mind.—Our Society indeed, is on a small scale; but every thing must have a beginning. Dr. Franklin had but 12 members when he instituted his celebrated 'Junto,' some of the great and good effects of which have just been enumerated. Then be not discouraged, "in great attempts 'tis honourable e'en to fail." We expect not to make inventions, nor philosophical discoveries; neither did Newton, nor Franklin, when they began their humble career.—There are departments in Science already marked out, in which we may improve ourselves to great advantage—Logic, and Rhetoric, the art of reasoning well, and expressing our reasons with facility and precision; and these attainments are only acquired by practice. For notwithstanding, "Poeta nascitur, orator fit," a man may be born a poet, yet he is made an orator. This is clearly illustrated in the character of Demosthenes, who labored under several natural defects, yet by persevering diligence, he became perhaps the best orator of antiquity, if not in the world.—The practice of reasoning, says Kaimes, tends to a habit of strengthening the faculties, preparing for subjects more intricate, and in time bestows acuteness to reason sufficient to unravel the intricacies of philosophy. It improves the heart as well as the understanding, moderates the affections, harmonizes the temper, and stands as an antidote to turbulence of passion, or violence of conduct. With a mind thus improved and stored with ideas, and the organs of speech justly tuned and cultivated, the orator becomes overwhelming and irresistable. The old Romans cultivated eloquence, as the high road to honor and preferment, and in a free country and government like ours, where every thing is done by *persuasion*, logic and eloquence must be essentially necessary: for with us merit, and not hereditary right, gives a title to the highest offices of State—Franklin's motto is our maxim, "virtus est vera nobilitas," virtue is true nobility. A Statesman, Civilian, or Divine will make but an indifferent figure, without pursuasive eloquence—"without Rhetoric, Logic is but a warbling trifle." But true eloquence is the first and fairest handmaid to argumentation. Hence the necessity of cultivating this talent, hence our mutual combination into a Society, for the improvement of our mental, and oratorial faculties.—Some observations concerning the means of attaining this desirable object, may be necessary.

1. Industry. Nothing great, or arduous is obtained, in the common course of events, without correspondent great exertions. It was an adage of the antients, that, "Veritas in puteo." Truth lies in a well; and consequently we must dig for it as for hid treasure. Except we be industrious, individually, and collectively, we shall not be able to receive, or communicate much advantage. Never will we become learned and wise in a philosophical sense, except we make a diligent use of means; but with a diligent use thereof, there is very little doubt of success. "Improbus labor vincit omnia"—and it was usual among the Romans, when they wished to give a dignified character to any of their sages, to say "he was of admirable industry, and persevering diligence." Therefore, let each member be diligent and active in discharging his duty, and contributing his mite to the common stock of information, and it may amount to an aggregate exceeding our most sanguine expectations.

2. Order is essentially necessary to the existence and durability of our Society. No system can exist without order. "Archein te kai archesthai."—Says Cyrus if you would rule, you must first be governed. And from the free spirit of our Constitution, and the rotation of office required, there can neither exist tyranny among the officers, nor a private individual be prevented from the highest office, in his turn, if his conduct be meritorious. Order is an essential attribute in all the works of nature, and of art. Need we mention the order that obtains in the planetary system? Need we identify the exact order that must exist in the works of a clock? This subject is obvious to every mind. Now, our society may be compared to a complicated machine and every member, as a spring or wheel within a wheel, in this social combination, each having his particular station, or relation, extending his influence through the whole, and mutually contributing to its mobility, stability, and utility—but if one wheel goes too fast or too slow, retrograde or excentric, it will unavoidably disturb and derange the whole; consequently order is essential to the permanent existence of our society.

Then let each member have a strict regard to order; let him direct his eye to the Constitution, as a polar star to guide him to his desired haven!

3. Friendship is a prime pillar in our society. Then let us not be irascible, or retaliative, in our debate and 'war of words.' Let us deal tenderly and politely with each other's arguments and sentiments; and if any irascible repartee should happen in the course of de-