

Mr. Hewes. It is much to be regretted, that men who write under the influence of prejudice or resentment, should permit their hasty, incorrect and passionate effusions to be ushered to public view, in language which the writer in his cooler moments must often blush for, as not justified by the occasion. Every writer who uses harsh and indecorous language, is suspected by all judicious readers, of being influenced by improper motives, & therefore fails to produce any good effect by his essays; but when his zeal or prejudice so far misleads him, as to cause a deviation from, or perversion of the truth of the facts on which he pretends to found censure, it is the duty of every good citizen to assist in detecting his errors, and defending those whom he unjustly censures.

These observations are peculiarly applicable to the communication signed "Looker-On," published in the Gazette of the 9th; the writer of which appears to possess but a small portion of that politeness which he accuses our delegate, Mr. Dorsey, of wanting; and those gentlemen of dignity, rank & age, who, he says, were derided and detestably damned with republican ridicule, must be sensible on reading the misrepresentations contained in his essay, that he is as deficient in candor as politeness.

"On Friday last, (says this Looker-On) was exhibited in the state legislature, a scene of confusion scarcely paralleled by the national assembly, in the eventful time of Robespierre."—And again—"The deceitful Bill to quiet possessions was made a party question." What was the fact? A minority, composed of thirteen federalists and four democrats, were employing every artifice which ingenuity could suggest, to create a confusion, and thereby prevent a majority, consisting of thirty-six democratic and ten federal members, from passing a law which they conceived necessary, to secure to individuals their just rights, the merits of which had been twice discussed in debates which lasted each several hours, and which they believed would be highly important & beneficial in its effects.

The law in question has already been published at length in the Gazette of Friday last; of its merits or demerits I shall here give no opinion. A plain statement of the circumstances that took place during the time it was pending before the House of Delegates, will fully set out for the unparalleled scene of confusion, and enable the constituents of Mr. Dorsey to judge whether or not his conduct on that occasion was meritorious, or justifies the harsh and intemperate censure of the "Looker-On;" while the division, nearly equal, of the federal members on the final passage of the Bill, sufficiently refutes his assertion that "it was made a party question."

The supplement to the act for quieting possessions, &c. had been reported to the house of delegates, and a printed copy of the bill, in the possession of each of the members from ten to fifteen days previous to the time at which it was passed. On Tuesday, the first of December, on the motion to make it the order of the day for the following Friday; the merits of the bill were discussed by the members both for and against it for several hours; the motion prevailed notwithstanding the repeated attempts of the minority to defeat it by motions for adjournment, by which they had delayed the house till nearly four o'clock, in hopes that by tiring the patience of the members, they would compel a long postponement of the bill and probably defeat it. From Tuesday till Friday the members had full time to consider the bill, and judge of its merits, and on its second reading during a discussion which lasted six hours, its opponents had full opportunity to urge every argument which their ingenuity could devise against it. About half past three o'clock, P. M. the question on the final passage of the bill was taken, when a motion was made to postpone it; this was objected to, on the ground that a full discussion of its merits had twice taken place, and that about two weeks had elapsed since the attention of the members had been called particularly to the subject, each of them during that time having had a printed copy of the bill in his possession. It was also urged, that the house was then full, but on the next day (Saturday) as usual, a great number of the members would be absent; and that every member of the house had fully made up his opinion how to vote on the question of the final passage of the bill. The motion for postponement being negatived, the yeas and nays were called, evidently with a design to consume time and compel the majority to adjourn. With the same view the yeas and nays were called on deciding a motion for adjournment in the negative, a proceeding almost unprecedented, and notwithstanding a large majority voted against adjourning, the motion was almost immediately repeated with the same success!! Several members in the minority then took their hats and left the house, as was believed by the majority with a view to reduce the number below a quorum; finding, however, that the advocates for the bill were more than a quorum, and that a number of those in the minority would not countenance such conduct, the members who had withdrawn returned and took their seats; a gentleman then rose, (it is presumed the same alluded to by "Looker-On,") and addressing his discourse to Mr. Dorsey, said, "he hoped the honorable gentleman from Baltimore would gratify the wishes of the house, and suffer them to adjourn." Mr. Dorsey replied, in terms decent and respectful and not such as could or did insult the feelings of the gentleman alluded to, that "he hoped the gentleman who had addressed him, would himself yield to the repeated and unequivocal expressions of the wish of the house, of having the bill put to its passage; that he also hoped a minority would not attempt, by producing confusion and other indirect means, to control and thwart the wishes of the majority." One of the minority then rose and renewed the argument on the merits of the bill, in a speech of great length, that consisted chiefly of a repetition of reasons already urged, evi-

dently with design to tire the patience of the members, and compel an adjournment. The house observed the strictest order during his speech, and no other member rising to speak, the question was taken on the passage of the bill, and carried in the affirmative. On calling the yeas and nays it appeared that forty-eight voted affirmatively exclusive of Gen. Winder, who, after voting in favour of the bill, had left the house before the yeas and nays were called. Seventeen only voted in the negative. So far from being a party question, that of twenty three federal members who were present, ten voted in favor of the bill, and many of them were the most decided opponents to an adjournment or postponement, being unwilling to encourage so dangerous a precedent, that a minority should controul a majority.

The assertions of "Looker-On," that the business had been previously settled in caucus, and that all questions are decided by party spirit, are therefore mere unfounded surmises. The division of the federal members in this instance proves the assertion to be absurd.

CANDOUR.

The following is a copy of a bill before the legislature of this state, which was made the order of the day for this day.

AN ACT

For the opening and extending Pratt-street, in the city of Baltimore.

Whereas sundry persons, inhabitants of the city of Baltimore, have represented to this general assembly, that the health and convenience of the said city would be greatly promoted by the opening and extending the said street, which is at present intersected by several docks, and obstructed by other impediments: And whereas this general assembly have good cause to believe that the representation of the said inhabitants is just and true; therefore,

I. Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That the said streets be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to open and extend said Pratt-street of the present width thereof, from Light-street, eastwardly, to Jones's Falls and that the said street, when so opened and extended, shall forever thereafter be and remain a public street and high-way; and the said commissioners are hereby required to cause an accurate plot thereof to be made and returned to the register's office of the city of Baltimore, who shall receive and file the same among the records of his office, as a part of the plot of the city of Baltimore.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said commissioners, and they are hereby directed, to cause that part of Pratt-street which passes through the bason, to be filled up to a convenient grade for paying the same, and to fill up to a like grade all those docks which lie on the north side of said street extended, and also to fill up to the grade aforesaid, and erect and build a good and substantial wharf extending twenty-five feet to the south of the south side of Pratt-street, and bounded on the east by Franklin lane, and on the west by Light-street; and the said wharf, when so filled up, built and erected, is hereby declared to be a public wharf for ever, to be used as such by all persons residing within the state of Maryland, free and clear of all charges or wharfage whatsoever.

III. And be it enacted, That the said docks, when so filled up as aforesaid, shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be, the right and estate of the respective persons, bodies politic or corporate, who would have been entitled to the same in case the proprietors of lots on the north side of Pratt-street had wharfed out and extended the same to the north side of said street, under the several acts of assembly of this state, and by the permission of the mayor & city council of Baltimore.

IV. And be it enacted, That the said commissioners shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the passage of this act, ascertain and determine for what sum of money the said street can be extended, the said wharf filled up and built, and the said docks filled up as aforesaid, and shall make a statement thereof under their hands and seals, and deliver the same to the jury herein after appointed.

V. And be it enacted, That each of the said commissioners shall receive, as a compensation for his services in carrying into effect the provisions of this act, the sum of — dollars.

VI. And be it enacted, That in case any of the said commissioners should die, refuse to act, or remove out of the county, before the discharge of the duties imposed on them by this act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the surviving or remaining commissioners to appoint a commissioner or commissioners, as the case may be, in his or their stead, each of whom shall be vested with the same powers, and required to discharge the same duties, that any commissioner named in this act is.

VII. And be it enacted, That the chief judge of the sixth judicial district, after having given ten days previous notice in the several newspapers in the city of Baltimore, shall issue an order, under his hand & seal, to the sheriff of Baltimore county, commanding him to summon — persons, named by the said chief judge in the said order, who shall be freeholders and residents of the city or precincts of Baltimore, and shall be free from interest in the subjects wherein they are to decide; and the said sheriff shall, on or before the — day of — next, in pursuance of such order, summon the said persons to meet at the intersection of Pratt-street and Light-street, and the said persons, when so assembled, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation as the case may be, viz: "I, A. B. do swear or affirm, that I will discharge the several duties required of me by the act of assembly passed at November session, 1807, entitled,

"An act for the opening and extending of Pratt-street, in the city of Baltimore, to the best of my skill and judgment, without favor, partiality or prejudice;" and in case any of the persons appointed as aforesaid shall die or refuse to act, it shall and may be lawful for the said chief judge, from time to time, to substitute other persons in their stead, who shall severally be summoned by the said sheriff, and take and subscribe the foregoing oath or affirmation, as the case may be, and have the same powers, & discharge the same duties, that are vested in the commissioners appointed by this act; and the said sheriff shall be allowed for his trouble the same fees that are allowed him for summoning the same number of persons as jurors to Baltimore county court, to be satisfied and paid in the same manner that other expenses incurred under this act are.

IX. And be it enacted, That the said persons, or a majority of them, who are hereby denominated a jury be and they are hereby authorized and directed to proceed, as soon as conveniently may be, to ascertain and value what damage will be sustained by any and each owner of any houses, lot or lots, lands or tenements, (taking all advantages & disadvantages into consideration, lying and being in that part of the city of Baltimore which is contained within the following bounds, viz: By Light-street on the west, Pratt-street on the south, Franklin-lane on the east, & Water-street, extended to Light-street, on the north, in consequence of the opening and extending of Pratt-street from Light-street eastwardly to Jones's Falls, and also to value and ascertain what part of the whole amount of said damages, and of all costs, charges and expenses, incurred in opening and extending said street, in filling up the docks thereby separated from the bason, and in executing all the provisions of this act shall be borne and paid by each person owning any house or houses, lot or lots, lands or tenements, situated in the city and precincts of Baltimore, on the south side of Baltimore-street extended, in a direct line eastwardly and westwardly, and benefited by the opening and extension of said street.

X. And be it enacted, That the said jury be and they are hereby required to make out a full and fair statement of their proceedings under this act, shewing the name of each person whose property is injured as aforesaid, and the amount of damages by him sustained, and also the name of each person whose property is benefited as aforesaid, and how much of the said damages, costs, charges and expense, is to be by him borne and paid, and the said statement, under their hands and seals, to return to the office of the clerk of Baltimore county; and they are also required to return a duplicate of such statement to the office of the register of the city of Baltimore, to be by him preserved and kept in the same manner that the public records of the city are.

XI. And be it enacted, That the said sums of money, ascertained by the said jury to be paid by the said owners of property benefited as aforesaid, shall be and the same are hereby declared to be a lien on the property of the said owners respectively, for the full amount by them severally to be paid; and the said commissioners, or the survivors of them, may and they are hereby authorized to institute, in their own names, a suit or suits in Baltimore county court, for the recovery of the said sums of money from the person or persons by whom they are respectively due, in which it shall be sufficient to declare for money had and received, and this act and the proceedings under the same, shall be evidence to support such action or actions instituted as aforesaid.

XII. And be it enacted, That the said commissioners be, and they are hereby authorized and directed to appoint a collector, and in case of the death or resignation of such collector, another person to appoint from time to time in his stead, to collect and receive all sums of money ascertained by the said jury, to be paid by the respective owners of property benefited as aforesaid, who is hereby authorized and empowered to collect the same in the same manner that the city taxes are collected by the collector of the city of Baltimore, and to pay over monthly to the said commissioners, all money by him collected as aforesaid; and the said collector, before he proceeds to the discharge of the duties of his office, shall give bond to the state of Maryland, with securities to be approved of by the said commissioners, in the penal sum of — hundred thousand dollars, conditioned that he will well and truly collect all sums of money ascertained by the jury aforesaid to be paid by the owners of property benefited by the opening and extension of Pratt-street, and pay over the same monthly to the commissioners appointed to open and extend said street, agreeably to the provisions of this act, which said bond shall be lodged in the office of the clerk of Baltimore county; & the said collector shall receive half a per centum on the whole amount by him collected, as a compensation for his services in collecting the same.

XIII. And be it enacted, That the said commissioners, before they proceed to the exercise of their powers and discharge of the duties created by this act, shall give bond to the state of Maryland in the penal sum of — hundred thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties required of them as commissioners under this act; which said bond shall be lodged in the office of the clerk of Baltimore county, and a copy thereof under the seal of the county, shall be competent testimony in any court of law or equity in this state; and the judges of Baltimore county court, or either of them, holding said court, may, upon the application of any person interested therein, call upon the said commissioners to renew their bond with such securities as the said court may deem satisfactory,

and upon such commissioners neglecting or refusing to renew their said bond as aforesaid, the said county court may revoke all the powers and trusts given to the said commissioners, and appoint other commissioners in their places, who shall give bond as aforesaid, and possess and exercise all the powers, trusts and duties, imposed on and delegated to the said commissioners nominated in this act.

XIV. And be it enacted, That each member of the said jury shall receive as a compensation for his services rendered in pursuance of this act, the sum of — dollars.

XV. And be it enacted, That the said bonds given by the said commissioners and collector, shall be liable to be sued on by any person injured by them respectively in the discharge of their duties; which suits shall be brought in the name of the state of Maryland, and endorsed for the use of the person suing; and provided that nothing in this act contained shall authorize the said commissioners to fill up, or commence the filling up or extension of the said street as aforesaid, until each owner of property injured by the opening and extension of said street shall be paid the full amount of the damages ascertained by the said jury to be sustained as aforesaid, or until each of the said owners shall declare their assent in writing, that the said commissioners may proceed in the discharge of the duties of their office.

LEGISLATURE,

HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MARYLAND. THURSDAY, December 3, 1807.

The house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill authorising Benjamin Ray, late sheriff and collector of Montgomery county, to complete his collection, the bill to extend Centre-street in the northern precincts of the city of Baltimore, and to build a bridge across Jones's Falls, the further supplement to the act to incorporate companies to make several turnpike roads through Baltimore county, and for other purposes, the bill for the sale of the real estate of James Winchester, and the resolution in favor of Wm. Amos, were sent to the senate.

Mr. Robert Dennis, a delegate for Dorchester county, appeared qualified, & took his seat.

The following message was sent to the Senate:

We propose agreeably to the order of the day, to proceed immediately to the election of two directors on the part of this state in the Union Bank of Maryland, Peter Forney, Samuel G. Griffith, Samuel Howard, & Sam. Briscoe, are put in nomination by this house in addition to those nominated by you.— Mr. Sudler and Mr. Hopewell are appointed by your messengers to examine the ballots.

The house proceeded to ballot for two directors in the Union Bank of Maryland, and upon examining the ballots it appeared, that Samuel Wright was elected, who was accordingly declared a director on behalf of this state for the ensuing year in the Union Bank of Maryland.

The house proceeded to ballot for another director, and upon examining the ballot it appeared, that Thomas Dickson was elected, and was declared to be a director on behalf of this state for the ensuing year in the Union Bank of Maryland.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of the city of Baltimore, praying that the city commissioners may be authorized to establish the dividing lines of certain lots, was presented, read, and referred.

Mr. Rowles delivered an unfavorable report on the petition of Jean B. Chirac; which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. T. Dorsey delivered a bill, entitled, an act to authorise the drawing of a lottery within the city of Baltimore, for the purpose therein mentioned, and a bill, entitled an act for the relief of James West, an insolvent debtor; which were read.

Ordered, That the further additional supplementary act to the act, entitled, an act for quieting possessions, enrolling conveyances, and securing the estates of purchasers, have a second reading on Wednesday the 9th inst.

Mr. Harryman delivered a favorable report on the petition of Thomas D. Cockey and Joshua F. Cockey; which was read.

The house, according to order, proceeded to the second reading of the bill to establish a chancery court on the eastern shore of this state, & to repeal such parts of the constitution and form of government as may be incompatible with the same, and on progression in reading said bill, the question was put, That the further consideration of the same be postponed until Thursday, the 10th inst. Resolved in the affirmative.

The supplement to the act to establish a bank, and incorporate the subscribers thereto, was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 39, nays 25.

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, December 4.

The house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Graham appeared in the house.

The supplement to the act to establish a bank, and incorporate the subscribers thereto, was sent to the senate.

Mr. O. Williams delivered the bill, entitled an additional supplement to the act, entitled, an act to ascertain the allowance to jury men and witnesses to the general court, and the several county and orphans' courts in this state, as amended; which was read.

The clerk of the senate delivered the supplement to the act to appoint and authorise commissioners to review and lay out a part of the road therein mentioned in Harford county, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments; which amendments were agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. And the further supplement to the act to regulate elections, endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendment;" which amendment was agreed to and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

Ordered, That the bill for the enlargement of the city of Baltimore, in Baltimore county, be recommended for amendment.

A petition from Evans Willing, of Somerset county, praying payment for a negro man who was drowned while pursued

as a runaway, was preferred, read and referred.

Mr. Porter delivered a favorable report on the petition of Maloy; which was read.

The bill to provide for transcribing and recording certain records and papers in the register's office of Kent county, was read the second time and passed.

The clerk of the senate delivered a bill annulling the marriage of Britannia Marshall, endorsed, "on reconsideration will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And the bill for the relief of Robert Leatherbury, endorsed, "will not pass."

The house, according to order, proceeded to the second reading of the bill for quieting possessions, and securing and confirming the estates of purchasers, and after reading the same throughout, the question was put shall the said bill pass? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

Affirmative, Messieurs Gardiner, W. Moffitt, Welch, Brice, Belt, C. D. Hedges, O. Williams, Merriken, Emerson, Green, Rogerson, Little, Harryman, M. Brown, Kerr, P. Spencer, Seth, Stevens, Dennis, Ebnalls, Henry, Cox, T. Moffitt, Porter, Page, J. Williams, Sturgis, Robins, Dashiell, Biggs, Kuhn, Shriver, Streett, Ayres, Davis, Bayard, Jomp, T. Dorsey, Stewart, Boles, Schnebly, Tabbs, Gabby, Darne, Bruce, Tomlinson, Greenwell, Briscoe.—48.

Negative, Messieurs W. H. Brown, Blakistore, Hopewell, Gale, of Kent, Blake, Stone, C. Dorsey, Gale of Somerset, Jackson, King, Callis, B. Hedges, Shaaff, J. E. Spencer, Sudler, Hawkins, Carrol.—17.

So it was resolved in the affirmative. Adjourned.

SPARTA (Geo.) Nov. 21.

Cold comfort for Yazoo Speculators.—The following resolutions were introduced, at the commencement of the present session of the legislature, by Mr. Bryan, (of Chatham;) the preamble was proposed by Mr. E. H. Cummins, (of Wilkes;) and the word "unanimously" was inserted on motion of Mr. Davies, (of Chatham.)

LEGISLATURE OF GEORGIA.

In the house of representatives,

17th Nov. 1807.

Whereas, in the year 1795, as will be recollected with emotions of indignation by every virtuous citizen of this state, a combination of influential and monied men, succeeded by bribery and corruption, in obtaining the passage of an act, conveying the right of this state in a well known portion of the western country, called Yazoo, to several companies of purchasers—and whereas the succeeding legislatures duly convinced of the flagitious agency which had procured the act aforesaid, virtuously determined by a rescinding law, to prohibit all contracts, conveyances and grants originating in that fraud from being carried into effect; it solemnly becomes this legislature to support and preserve consistent, the reputation of this state by denying the statements of a band of speculators, combined from New-Hampshire to the Mississippi, to embezzle the funds either of this state, or the United States, and to riot on the profits of an extensive tract of country, in alleging falsely, that the state of Georgia contemplated in the articles of cession of the U. States of her western territory in 1803, any compromise of the Yazoo claims, in any way whatever. And in as much as it is important to the decision of congress on this subject, and greatly so to the dignity and justice of the state of Georgia, that the truth as it is, in this matter, should be fully and unequivocally defined, it is therefore,

Resolved unanimously, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, That they have voided and still view with abhorrence, the attempt made by a set of unprincipled men, commonly known by the appellation of Yazoo men, to corrupt a majority of the legislature of this state, in the year 1795, which attempt was rendered abortive by the virtue of the succeeding legislature. Resolved unanimously, That it never was the intention of the legislature of this state, when they ratified certain articles of agreement and cession, entered into by commissioners appointed by the State of Georgia and the United States, to evince any desire to compromise claims that originated in fraud, and which were rendered invalid by the state sovereignty. Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Georgia, be given to JOHN RANDOLPH, member of Congress from the state of Virginia, and the late majority of the Ninth Congress, for their virtuous and manly opposition to a compromise, which would in their opinion, equally compromise the dignity of the government of the United States and the sovereignty of this state. Resolved unanimously, That the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to Mr. RANDOLPH, to the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General of the U. States. Extract from the Journal.

Attest, HINES HOLT, Clerk. Concurred unanimously in Senate, 18th November, 1807.

WILL ROBERTSON, Secyry.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

Virginia Legislature of the 10th inst.

Mr. Smyth (of Wythe) begged leave to call the attention of the House to a subject of importance. It appeared to him that the informal war which already existed between this country and Great Britain must very soon become a war in form. We have been informed by the public prints that the British court have declared that if the non-impatriation act goes into operation, it will be