

LEGISLATURE.

DELEGATES, MARYLAND. December 7. Present on Saturday. Saturday were read. Mr. Forward appeared.

Stevens, P. Spencer, and Street of absence. Memorial from Littitia Crookshanks of Cecil county, praying that a suit brought upon the bond of her late husband, may be dismissed, upon her paying the costs of suit, was read and referred.

Ordered, That Mr. W. H. Brown be excused from serving on the committee appointed to bring in a bill for the encouragement of learning, and that Mr. Belt be added to said committee.

Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act to restrain the evil practices arising from negroes keeping dogs, and to prohibit them from carrying guns or offensive weapons.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Bell-Air, in Harford county, praying a law preventing hogs from going at large therein, a petition from Henry Peters of Baltimore county, praying a certain road may be declared a public highway, and a petition from Joseph Howard, and others, representatives of Brice Howard, deceased, praying that certain money lodged in the treasury by B. Harwood, under an act of Assembly, may be paid to them, were preferred, read and referred.

Leave given to bring in a bill to provide for the discharge of insolvent debtors in Baltimore county.

A petition from Thomas S. Brewer, late a soldier in the American army, praying half-pay, was preferred, read, and referred.

Mr. Bruce delivered a bill, entitled, An act to extend further the powers of the levy court of Alleghany county relative to roads in said county, and for other purposes, which was read.

The further supplement to the act relating to negroes, was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Determined in the negative, yeas 2, nays 40.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying the repeal of a law passed last session for reviewing a certain road, or part thereof, was preferred, read & referred.

Mr. Carroll delivered a bill, entitled, An act to enlarge the powers of the trustees of the poor of Montgomery county; which was read.

A petition from the vestry of Saint-Thomas's parish, in Baltimore county, praying that the managers of a lottery for the benefit of said parish may be authorized to sell tickets in the city of Baltimore, and a petition from Robert Leatherbury, late sheriff and collector of Somerset county, praying further time to complete his collection, were preferred, read, and referred.

The amendments proposed to the bill for the relief of Mary Gwinn, were read the second time, and dissented from.

The following message was agreed to.

We have received the bill which originated in this house, entitled, An act for the relief of Mary Gwinn, of Frederick county, with certain amendments. The amendments proposed will wholly defeat the object wished for by the person applying for relief, which this house formerly thought, and still are of opinion, ought to be extended. We therefore have returned the bill for the reconsideration of the senate, with a hope that it may be passed without the amendments proposed.

The report on the memorial of Jeremiah T. Chase, relative to confiscated property purchased by him, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith, and assent to the resolution therein contained? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 41, nays 15.

Leave given to bring in a supplement to an act for the speedy recovery of small debts out of court, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the bill for founding a medical college in the city or precincts of Baltimore for the instruction of students in the different branches of medicine, and after making several amendments thereto, the question was put, That the further consideration thereof be postponed? Resolved in the affirmative.

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY, December 8.

The house met. Present as on yesterday, except Mr. Stephens, Mr. P. Spencer and Mr. Street. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Little delivered a bill, entitled, an act to lay out and make a public road in Baltimore county; which was read.

The bill for the relief of Mary Gwinn, and the message relating thereto, with the resolution in favor of Jeremiah T. Chase, were sent to the senate.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill for founding a medical college in the city or precincts of Baltimore, and, on motion, leave was given to withdraw the amendments proposed, for uniting the same with St. Mary's college.

The question was then put, That the house reconsider the said bill? Resolved in the affirmative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate delivered the bill to extend Centre street, in the northern precincts of the city of Baltimore, and the bill to make valid the will of Arthur McDade, endorsed "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And bill authorizing Benjamin Ray, late sheriff and collector of Montgomery county, to complete his collection, endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendments" which amendments were read.

The bill to authorise the drawing of a lottery within the city of Baltimore for the purpose therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

A petition from Margaret and Harriet Hammond, of Baltimore county, praying an alteration in the law for building a bridge over Hammond's Ferry, was preferred, read and referred.

The bill authorising a lottery for raising a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

On motion, ordered, that the report on the petition of Evans Willing be withdrawn.

Mr. Winder delivered a favorable report on the petition of Evans Willing; which was read.

A petition from John Swan, counter to the petition of William Gwinn, was preferred, read and referred.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Caroline county, praying for a bridge over a branch of North west Fork river; a petition from sundry inhabitants of Montgomery county, praying for a road, and a petition from sundry inhabitants of said county, counter thereto, were preferred, read and referred.

The bill for the benefit of the joined evangelic lutheran and evangelic presbyterian congregation of St. Paul's church, in Washington county, was read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

Mr. Boone, Mr. P. Spencer and Mr. Stevens, appeared in the house.

On motion, that the supplement to an act for rectifying the ill practices of attorneys in this state, &c. have a second reading, the question was put, that the house itself form into a committee of the whole? Determined in the negative.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the said bill, and after amending the same, the question was put, that the further consideration of the same be postponed until the 1st day of May next? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 49, nays 10.

A petition from John Boody, of the city of Annapolis, stating that he was wounded at the battle of Camden, and praying assistance, was preferred, read and referred.

The clerk of the senate delivered the supplement to an act for the establishment of a school in Caroline county, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments," which amendments were read. The bill to erect a new bridge over Great-Choptank river, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendment;" which amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. The supplement to the act to prevent the going at large of swine in the village of Hillsborough, in Caroline county, and the bill for the relief of James West, an insolvent debtor, endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed.

A petition from Henry Walter, of Kent county, an alien, praying he may be enabled to hold real property, was preferred, read and referred.

Mr. Little delivered a bill, entitled, an act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state; which was read.

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning.

Debates in Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, December 10.

The bill from the senate appropriating a sum of money for constructing an additional number of gun boats was read a third time.

Mr. Elliott. When an individual unconnected with party, and who looked with a single eye to the national good, offered any observations to that house on any subject of great national concern, it might be expected, in common times, that some attention would be given to those remarks. But, these times were unpropitious; these were not common times; these were not the soft seasons of persuasion. He would now offer his sentiments to the house, owed to himself and to them to make himself well acquainted with the subject. If he did not think that he had done so, he would not trouble the house with any remarks on the question then before them. Circumstances peculiar to himself would not suffer him, on any light or trivial occasion to address the house: Personal afflictions, of the most heart rending nature, and which produced sensations utterly indescribable, rendered such exertions painful in the extreme. But there were times in every age and country, and he believed those times had arrived in this age and this country, when the tender sensibilities of the heart must give way to the sublime energies of the mind.

He considered the bill on the table as of more importance than it generally appeared to have been considered. He considered it as a poor miserable substitute, for those bold and glorious measures of defence, which the present awful crisis so emphatically required. What result did a view of the present crisis afford? Was it common? Were the present times of the common kind? What had become of our bright and flattering prospects of peace? These prospects had been overcast by a dark, dismal and threatening cloud. In the language of ancient and divine poetry, this was "a day of trouble and distress, a day of vastness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." He considered the crisis as awful, and that gentlemen were responsible to their consciences and their country for the measures they might pursue.

Speaking of the magnitude and importance of the present crisis, the mind was naturally led to the constitution of the United States, that bond of union which had not only heretofore, but he trusted would long continue to preserve the integrity of the government. In the third section of the second article of that instrument we were informed what were the duties of the president of the U. S. in times of unusual danger and terror. "He shall from time to time, give to congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." From this imperative mandate, it was an easy transition to the manner in which the president had performed this duty. He hoped it was in order to speak of documents which had been laid before them. He believed they were proper subjects for investigation and

Mr. Elliott alluded, we presume, to the recent loss of a promising son.

criticism, and that it was their duty to the country to make them.

He had looked over the message with attention, which ought to have been as a polar star to guide them in so dark and dreary a day, but he could find therein no unequivocal recommendation of this measure. He had made this examination, because he considered gun boats to be an executive measure, but he could find no recommendation of them in the message. The whole system of defence of administration, began and ended with gun boats.

One or two more desultory observations, and he would proceed to the argument which he proposed. As he had before observed that these were no common times, he would now remark that common language might be dispensed with. He was the personal enemy of no man, and he wished that no man might be his enemy. He had suffered much from the lacerations of calumny, but this should not drive him from the discharge of his duty. To day he would not perhaps, speak a usual language, but he would offend against no law of the house—against no rule of decency. He would expose the classes, the species, and the variety of party as he believed them to exist. If they did so exist, they were dangerous, and it was their duty to expose them to their country and to posterity.

When on the subject of gunboats, the first natural enquiry was, from whence came they? From what strange fountain descended this torrent of national delusion and destruction? Whence this strange passion for them within two or three years? It was easy to account for it. Gun boats had no friends except the heads of the government, who had very unaccountably become seized with a strange passion for them. The object was said to be the protection of commerce. The policy of the times was not understood to be, nor was he a friend to such policy, to protect commerce in every in every clime and every sea. They only contemplated protecting it to a limited extent. This was a proper object. Commerce was entitled to as much protection as the country could afford to it consistently with general arrangements, and the state of her resources. It was friendly to civilization. There was a greater utility of interests between agriculture and the other arts in this than had ever before been witnessed.

But it was not merely for this purpose that gun-boats were intended. He now understood they were to form the greatest part of the national defence. The organization of a general system of defence was a matter of the first importance; if well organized it would command the respect of foreign nations, and would be propitious to the continuance of the union. Commerce would have to be protected in some way, and some general system of defence would have to be created. The doctrine of the times was, that we were unable to protect our commerce on the ocean from Britain. It was thence argued that we ought to have no naval force. He thought it incumbent on those who recommended gun boats to shew the utility of such an establishment. Had there, he asked, been any information furnished the people of the United States to induce them to form such a conclusion? He knew of none.

He had observed among other documents on the table, a report of the committee of revision and unfinished business. From that report it appeared that this plan of gun-boats had been proposed last session. At that time he had had the honor of calling the attention of the house to the all important subject of national defence. Though gun-boats formed no part of his proposal, he had proposed other measures, which he was happy to find were now becoming popular; such as arming the militia—preparing frigates, and other vessels of war, &c. He rejoiced that these measures were now becoming popular; but he should regret extremely if the house persevered in adhering to the weak and miserable system of gun-boats. What made him feel the greater repugnance to this mode of defence, was that it was intended as a substitute for all other means of defence.

The chairman of the committee of aggressions had called the attention of the house to some documents accompanying the message of the president at the last session, intended to convince congress of the efficacy of the gun-boat system.

A resolution had passed the house, calling on the president for any information in his possession to shew the efficacy of gun boats. In compliance with this resolution, the message and documents had been transmitted to the house, and it was worthy of remark, that though furnished with the express view of shewing their efficacy, gun-boats were considered as forming but a small part of the national defence. In that message the president had told them that under existing circumstances, it had been judged prudent to depend for the defence of the coast, first on batteries, second moveable armaments, third floating batteries, and fourth gun-boats.

They had been told that professional men had been consulted on this subject; and they had been furnished with the opinions of generals, Gates and Wilkinson, men of different fame, and holding different stations in the annals of the country, in favor of them. It would be found that in many parts of those documents, gun boats and guns had been confounded. By an unhappy combination of circumstances, a lucky adventurer had the honor of giving name to this country; so had gun boats acquired an honor which did not belong to them. They were told in the message that gun boats had been used with effect in the Mediterranean; but the information most desirable, would have been that tending to shew that gun

boats, unconnected with other means of defence, had ever been useful.

They had also been told in that message, that gun boats had been of great use at Gibraltar. Every man who sought for military and naval information, had read the account of the siege of Gibraltar. He had read it with attention, and could not discover that gun boats had been of any kind of service. True, it was, that gun boats had first originated in the Baltic, a sea scarcely subject to wind or tide, and they had there been found useful. From that circumstance the French had been induced to use them against England, but they had not there been found equally efficacious.

They had also been told of the famous action between the Russian flotilla and the Turkish fleet on the Liman sea. The first enquiry on that subject was, could any man tell where the Liman sea was. They could not—it was a mere nick-name. It was nothing but an expansion of the waters of the Dnieper.

[Mr. Elliott here went into a particular examination of that engagement, in order to shew that the Russians did not gain the victory in consequence of any peculiar efficacy of gun boats; but in consequence of the ignorance of the Turks—who, not being acquainted with the channel, ran their vessels aground. As Mr. Dana afterwards took a more particular view of this part of the subject and as the editor was able to take more satisfactory notes of Mr. Dana's observations, he omits those of Mr. Elliott.] He had now disposed of the only information which had been furnished the house of the efficacy of gun boats, acting without the aid of other means; and he might challenge the annals of nations to produce instances of their efficacy unconnected with other means.

He had before observed, that there was no recommendation to equip this number. They had been called on last session for that purpose, and as the times had now become more awful, congress might think it their duty to do it. It was then contemplated to build 200, and in time of peace to keep but few of them afloat. Unless it was supposed, as some seemed to suppose, that we were in a state of war, it could not be supposed that 200 gun boats were necessary. The number provided for in the bill on the table, together with those already built, made 237. The executive had supposed that in times of general peace, six or seven might be a sufficient number to keep in service. In case of war in Europe, 18 or 20, and that 170 or 80 were equal to the most calamitous period of war.

[Debate to be continued.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1807.

Gentlemen,

I received, some time ago, from the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Maryland, an address of that Legislature, to which, on public considerations, it was thought advisable that the answer should be deferred. I now ask permission to convey the answer to the Legislature through the same channel, and to tender you the assurances of my high consideration and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

The Hon. the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Maryland.

To the Legislature of Maryland.

I received, in due season, the address of the Legislature of Maryland, bearing date the 3d day of January last, in which, with their approbation of the general course of my administration, they were so good as to express their desire that I would consent to be proposed again to the public voice on the expiration of my present term of office. Entertaining, as I do, for the Legislature of Maryland, those sentiments of high respect which would have prompted an immediate answer, I was certain, nevertheless, they would approve a delay which had for its object to avoid a premature agitation of the public mind, on a subject so interesting as the election of a chief magistrate.

That I should lay down my charge at a proper period is as much a duty as to have borne it faithfully. If some termination to the services of the chief magistrate be not fixed by the constitution, or supplied by practice, his office, nominally for years, will in fact, become for life; and history shews how easily that degenerates into an inheritance. Believing that a representative government, responsible at short periods of elections, is that which produces the greatest sum of happiness to mankind, I feel it a duty to do no act which shall essentially impair that principle; and I should unwillingly be the person who, disregarding the sound precedent set by an illustrious predecessor, should furnish the first example of prolongation beyond the second term of office.

Truth also requires me to add, that I am sensible of that decline which advancing years bring on; and, feeling their physical, I ought not to doubt their mental effect.—Happy if I am the first to perceive, and to obey this admonition of nature, and to solicit a retreat from cares too great for the wearied faculties of age.

For the approbation which the legislature of Maryland has been pleased to express of the principles and measures pursued in the management of their affairs, I am sincerely thankful; and should I be so fortunate as to carry into retirement the equal approbation and good will of my fellow-citizens generally, it will be the comfort of my future days, and will close a service of forty years with the only reward it ever wished.

TH: JEFFERSON.

December 10, 1807.

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE, Good Printing Ink, (FORTY-FIVE CENTS PER POUND.) IN SMALL KEYS.

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

SALEM, Dec. 11.

Arrived, ship Janus, 113 days from Calcutta, sugars & piece goods.—sailed Calcutta 12th August, and from Sand Heads 18th. Left in the river, William & Jane, from Baltimore, and Superior, from New York.—Spoke, Oct. 18, lat. 31, 30 long. 12, 40, ship Lily, 39 days from Batavia, for Baltimore, Nov. 25, lat. 23, 41, long. 69, was boarded by the Brigate frigate Jason. Nov. 30, lat. 26, 44 long. 62, schr. Liberty, from Cayenne for New York.

Barque Mary, Bray, 114 days from Calcutta, sugars and piece goods. Schr. Hero, Porter, 51 days from Cumana.—Spoke, lat. 28, 23, long. 70, ship George, Bass, 42 days from Liverpool for Frederick-burg. Lat. 36, 14, long. 70, brig Betsey and Peggy, Dove, 45 days from Baltimore for Trinidad, in distress, having lost nearly all her sheathing from her bottom, short of provisions and water, supplied him with water, but could not spare any provisions. Capt. Dove had been on soundings, but was obliged to scud off 30 hours in a heavy gale from N. W., and intended to make the first port.

Schr. Eliza, Whittedge, from Baltimore, flour. Brig Henry, Groves, 60 days from Palermo.

Schr. Greyhound, Mansfield, from south-side of Cuba.

Schr. Two Brothers, Haskell, from Dominico, and Tortola. Left at Dominico, Nov. 15, sloop Eliza, H sly, for St. Kitts; schr. Betsey & Matilda, Sherman, of Bridget, for Turks-Island in 4 days; schr. Caroline, Edwards, Baltimore.

BOSTON, Dec. 12.

ARRIVED.

Schr. Mercury, Foster, of Topsham, Guadalupe, 41 days, sugar and molasses, Nov. 4, off St. Kitts, was boarded from the Savage sloop of war, with a convoy from England for Jamaica—same night, was boarded from a British frigate, and permitted to proceed without examination. Spoke, Nov. 2, off Guadalupe, brig Tropic, for Portland—Dec. 4, off Cape Cod, a brig from Boston for West-Indies.—Left, at Pt. Petre, Nov. 1, schr. Rebecca, Thomas, Newburyport; brig Ellen, Hudson, Portland, 32 days out.

Ship Prun D'oxye from the River Plate, hides. Sailed from Montevideo 11th Sept. Left, ship P. Imya; Wheelright, for Charleston; ship Olive-Branch of Boston. Spoke Nov. 26, lat. 29, long. 71; schr. Lucy, Pimban, 13 days from Martinico for R. I. Dec. 1, ship Polly; Richards, from R. I. for Savannah.

Schr. Endeavor of Bath; Captain Oliver, 60 days from Jamaica, rum. Spoke, Nov. 25, lat. 34, 14, long. 70, sloop Phebe, Anthony, from Providence, for Charleston, had lost his deck load, and generously supplied captain O, with provisions. Nov. 15, lat. 38, long. 70, schr. Luciana of Boston, from Philad. for Lisbon.

Brig Edward, Dole, of Newburyport, from Jamaica, 65 days, mahogany, copper &c. Spoke, Oct. 26, lat. 22, 50 long. 83, brig Two Brothers, of Boston, B. Foster master, from Jamaica for North-Carolina.

Cleared—Rebecca, Eldridge, Cadiz; ship Superb, Tracy, Rio de la Plata; brig Eliza, Finney, Valencia; schr. Concord, Homer, Shelburne; brig Helen, Foster, Lisbon.

NEW YORK, December 16.

On the arrival of the United States schr. Revenge, from Cherbourg, we, as usual, boarded her for the purpose of obtaining information. One of the editors of this Gazette, in the course of his inquiries, while on the deck of that vessel, and while in conversation with four of the officers, was informed, among other things, that Bonaparte had declared to Mr. Armstrong, our minister at Paris, that there should be no neutrals. This information we communicated to the public on the authority of the officers of the Revenge.

We have been induced to make this statement in consequence of a contradictory account which appeared yesterday in one of the morning papers.

In confirmation of the above, we learn by the passengers in the brig Comet, from Nantz, that Bonaparte had declared that there should be no neutrals; and it was expected, when the Comet sailed, that all American vessels in French ports would be embargoed.

The news of the determination of Portugal, to shut her ports against England, had not reached France; for a few days before the Comet sailed, about fifty Portuguese vessels at the port of Nantz, were seized, their hatches sealed, and their crews imprisoned.

We have Paris papers to the 6th ult. but they contain no news.

Captain Mix informs, that soon after the arrival of the REVENGE, from England, Mr. Armstrong, our minister at Paris, wrote to the American consuls at the different ports under the domination of France, requesting that they would recommend the immediate departure of American vessels. No reasons were given for this recommendation. On this Captain Mix sailed.

Arrived, ship Hanover, Williams, 62 days from Amsterdam, and 30 from Yarmouth, Eng. gin cheese, &c. Left ship Eliza, Waupus, of N. York for Tonningen, detained; the Charlotte, Cook, of Providence from Amsterdam was also detained, but cleared, drove out of the roads in a gale and put into Harwich with the loss of an anchor and cable. Dec. 3, lat. 47, 12, long. 61, 24, spoke ship General Eaton of Newburyport, from Tonningen, for Philadelphia, last from England, 9th lat. 39, 26, long. 68, 30, spoke ship Louisa, Williams, 102 days from Sumatra for Salem.