

Mr. Hewes.

On the 14th instant, you published a piece signed "Farmer," which reflects on the characters of certain commissioners; you will please to publish the within tomorrow in the Gazette, and oblige
A SUBSCRIBER.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I observed a piece in the Federal Gazette, of the 14th instant, signed "A Farmer," which I believe was written by a *towns keeper*, or the owner of one. It is addressed to the legislature, and is done with a design to injure the characters of five gentlemen who were appointed by an act of assembly, to view and report the course of a road from the Pennsylvania line to Towson tavern, on the York turnpike road. That this subject may be understood, and those gentlemen acquitted of improper conduct, it will be necessary to state the circumstances attending it.

From Towson's tavern to Brittain's mill, on the great falls of Gunpowder, is about six miles, as appears by actual measurement, and through almost all this distance was an old country road called the Overshot, which of late years has been so turned and neglected as to be rendered nearly useless, but it was still a county road, and in the month of October last, the proprietors of the land over which it passed, petitioned Baltimore levy court to widen & straighten the same nearly all the distance aforesaid. Not one man opposed it. The proper notice having been given, the levy court granted their request and appointed me to view and report the same, as the law directs, to the levy court.

In the month of November last, some weeks after the levy court sat, the commissioners appointed as aforesaid, to wit, Mr. Jarret, Mr. Turner, of Harford, and Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Stevenson, and Mr. Johnson, of Baltimore county, all gentlemen of probity, integrity and property, well acquainted with that part of the country, and not interested in the lands through which the said roads passed, proceeded to execute their work as directed by said law, and after taking great pains and much labor, they first ran a straight line from Towson Tavern to David Wiley's, at the Pennsylvania line; they then ran the old road, and by measurement it was about five miles more than the straight line. They then ran the way they have reported, on the best ground and most convenient way, under all circumstances, having in general the consent of the people and economy in view, and it made one mile more than the straight line. As far as Brittain's mill there is no objection, the commissioners having laid the road on the same route that the Overshot road was intended to be laid, which will be a great saving to the county, accommodate a great neighborhood of farmers, and will give an easy communication from Brittain's mill to Baltimore.

And let me premise that at Brittain's on the Great Falls, are one merchant mill, saw mill, falling mill, oil mill, and there are erecting carding and spinning machinery. The falls are large at this place, and it bids fair to be an useful and extensive manufactory, to the great advantage of the neighborhood in particular and the state in general. From this place to the Harford line, is about seven miles, as is laid down on the best ground, considering the accommodation of the owners of the soil and economy, but the old route being entirely crooked at one place, say two miles, they had to leave out a tavern keeper, and from this circumstance arises one great cause of complaint. The moment it was discovered that the road left his house, report says he started to get a petition signed against it, to which he procured a number of signers. In this part there is a very little opposition from the proprietors of the soil.

From the Harford line to the Pennsylvania line is about nine miles, the length of the intended road in this state. These people are unanimous for it as their great intercourse to market; their petition will speak for itself. From David Wiley's the York county people are opening a road to Wright's ferry on Susquehanna, and some other ferries lower down the river, by which route much produce will come from that part of the county and from Lancaster, to the great advantage of the farming, manufacturing, and mercantile interests. It will aid and facilitate the intercourse of that part of the country, to the very great advantage of the city of Baltimore.

When we view this road as laid down to run twenty-two miles, to the great advantage of the farmers; and none clamoring against it but publicans, and their friends, the legislature will say that the commissioners have done their duty by reconciling nearly all opposition; but it seems by running their road, it shortens the distance, and takes the custom from two small taverns near Mercedith ford; and although there is no intention to stop up this road, or in any manner to injure it, other than shortening the distance four miles, the commissioners are abused and vilified for not coming round that way, that the way worn traveller may be regaled with their whisky. The commissioners were obliged to sometimes run to the west or east of the straight course, for this reason they were obliged to vary and not through favour or affection, as has been erroneously pretended.

It is stated, that the road passes over a high hill at the house of David Wiley's—this is not the case—it runs through a tance from said house, over an

up the same hill which the Overshot passed much higher: It is the most convenient way they could run from Towson's to Brittain's; and the best evidence of it is the unanimity of the proprietors of the land's raising no objections to it: however there is no tavern on his part of the road where changed, or I suppose we should have noise enough.

It is a great misfortune that these small partialities do very great mischief, and mole-hills are turned into mountains, for the purpose of misinforming the legislature for such paltry considerations.

This intended road has long been a bone of contention; one time they reported that poor widows and orphans were to be destroyed; at another time many small farms would be ruined—nay, it was probably said that the hills were so steep at Brittain's mill that a fox could not run down them. And to silence all these clamors the legislature appointed commissioners to report their opinions on these subjects, and on a fair investigation, they have reported that a good road may be made easily the whole way, and within one mile of the distance of the straight course. It is fortunate that one gentleman, a member of the house of delegates, lives near the said road and will state facts as they are.

This contemplated road will be of immense importance to the city of Baltimore, especially the Old-Town; and as a great part of Baltimore and Harford counties are interested, the delegates from the city and those counties will certainly use their endeavors to confirm the commissioners' plan, by which they will permit the farmers to locate their buildings and farms, which have been in jeopardy for some years by not having this road settled.

FAIR PLAY.

Dec. 19.

We give publicity to the following article, in vindication of a gentleman, well known for his ability and integrity as an officer, and universally respected as a man. We at the same time know it is the wish of Mr. Coale, that no defence should be undertaken in the newspapers; that however bold, and often repeated, are the charges, yet he is willing to risk their effect on the public mind, until a decision may be had from a jury of his countrymen. We therefore wish that nothing further may be offered for the Gazette on this subject.

To the Editor of the Federal Gazette.

*They feed upon opinions, errors, dreams
And make them truths: they draw a nourish-
Out of defamings; grow upon disgraces; [Content
And when they see a virtue justified
Strongly, above the battery of their tongues,
Oh! how they cast to sink it.*

SEABOARD AND FLETCHER

Sir,

If the editor of the "Whig" had been as solicitous to publish the truth as he appears to be to lacerate the feelings and blast the reputation of a faithful officer and a worthy man, you would not have been troubled with this address. Mr. Coale has properly refrained from newspaper altercation with his calumniator, but has appealed to the laws of his country to punish the libeller and protect himself. This is the duty of every citizen who respects himself and respects the government under which he lives. Newspapers were established for the purpose of disseminating important information: when they become the instruments of falsehood, their end is perverted and their editors are traitors to the liberty of the press.

By commencing a prosecution against the editor of the Whig, the Register has boldly challenged an investigation of his conduct. That scrutiny will be solemn, and decisive. A jury of his country will mark him out "a fit subject for the hand of Scorn to point her slow, unmoving finger at," or their verdict, like the spear of Ithuriel, will show his character without a blemish.

His calumniator is enraged because the register will not descend into an altercation with him in his own paper: when Mr. Coale so far forgets himself, he must not be surprised if his friends forget him. But altho' he cannot now come forward to refute these infamous calumnies, a friend may do that office for him; and it shall be done briefly but, decisively.

When the register published his annual account, he added that it had been examined by a committee, and was found to be supported by proper vouchers. To this the editor of the Whig had the daring effrontery to add, "there never was a bolder assertion."

And since that time his pages have teemed with vile insinuations and falsehoods. I shall not attempt to hunt him through all his kennel of filth, but content myself with requesting you to publish the following documents, which show incontestibly that Mr. Coale has not forfeited the esteem and respect which he has long and deservedly enjoyed, among those whose good opinion is worthy an honest man's regard.

Dec. 22.

The joint committee to whom was referred the examination of the account of the register, city commissioners, and commissioners of health, beg leave to report, that they have performed the duty assigned them, and find the several items supported with proper vouchers.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that certain expenditures for the last year, have exceeded the appropriation, as more fully appears from the annexed statement. [The following follows the statement in words and figures.]

Your committee beg leave to add that the several items of excess of expenditure in the opinion of your committee were unavoidable and necessary for the accomplishment of the objects contemplated by the corporation making the appropriations for them; and that provision be made for the expenditures in the appropriation bill to be passed at the present session, the whole of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY SPOFFER,
JACOB SMALL,
GEO. F. WARFIELD.

Balt. 18th Feb. 1807.

The councils were so well satisfied with the propriety of these expenditures that to the usual appropriation bill, they added the following section:

"Sect. 11. And be it enacted and ordained, That there be and hereby is appropriated the amount of the several sums which have been expended during the last year, in completing the different objects for which INADEQUATE APPROPRIATIONS were made, the said expenditures appearing to have been proper and necessary."
Ord: Ap. 10, 1807—Vide City Ordinances, p. 230.

Debates in Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10.

Mr. DANA'S Speech on the appropriation for GUNBOATS.

(Continued.)

What was the situation of the legislature at that time? In respect to foreign relations, they had not the necessary information to enable them to judge so well as could be wished. That it had not its possession any dispatches relative to the affair between the Chesapeake and Leopard. There had not been laid before them any general system of defence, nor had they been told the probable issue of the negotiations with England. In all points they were in the dark. It was a well known provision in the constitution, that the president should give to congress information of the state of the union and recommend to them the adoption of such measures as he deemed expedient; and it must be well known to every member, that it was all in vain to think of attacking, when the chief did not direct the mode of attack. It would be perfectly in vain to provide means of defence which the executive would not think proper to use. What had the president recommended? He was known to them as commander in chief, and to him belonged the right of directing the public force. What, then, did the commander in chief require? What was that force for which he was willing to pledge his responsibility? No other than gun boats. At the last session, in a message to the house on that subject, he had explicitly recommended them. They were also understood to have been recommended to the present session, though not in such explicit terms. As president—as commander in chief of the national force, he desires to be furnished with gun boats, as means of defending the nation. He requires nothing more. Amid all the anxiety, agitation and alarm into which the country had been thrown, gun boats were asked for as the principal means of defence. It was all in point of force, which the president required for taking satisfaction for the wrongs committed against the country. In this situation, what was the duty of the house? Considering the president as highly responsible in regard to our foreign relations, would the house refuse to him the means of defence for which he applied? If, in indeed all that had been said about the public danger was illusory—mere tales to sport with the public feeling, there would be no need for any mode of defence. But when these things were represented in earnest, would the house refuse to the executive such means of defence as he required for the public safety, or would they press on him other modes of defence which he thought perfectly useless? It appeared to him the most correct course to vote for the bill, especially as it only gave a discretion to build, and was not a positive order to build.

He would readily acknowledge that gunboats would be of great use in defending certain portions of the territory. At the mouth of the Mississippi they might be peculiarly so; for there no troops could be landed—no batteries erected, nor could vessels of heavy burthen pass up, there being no more than two and a half fathoms water on the bar at its mouth. They would also be useful in narrow rivers—at long shot, especially where the shot could have the whole range of the vessels deck—on coasts abounding in shoals, and in narrow passages. He therefore felt it his duty to vote for as great an amount of this kind of armament as was judged necessary for the defence of that portion of the country where they promised to be efficacious. But when they passed north of the Hudson, did gentlemen then talk of gun-boats for defence? They must have forgotten for what these things were intended. To be useful, they must be navigated by skillful officers, and skilful seamen; but no skill was ever acquired on board of gunboats. Men must go elsewhere to acquire skill. Their real use was as an auxiliary force of subordinate character; and in this character, with the aid of other naval armaments they would be useful.

When your officers and soldiers behaved so gallantly before Tripoli, did these men live in gun-boats, or did they reside on board vessels of larger force, and only act occasionally on board gun boats? Did gentlemen talk of that affair proving the utility of gun boats? Tripoli had gun boats, and why did they not defend the place? Ask the superior skill and bravery of your officers and seamen. Gun boats were useful in that

affair, merely as they served to bring brave men in close conflict with their enemy.

With respect to the use of gun boats, we have been reminded of the result of a contest between the Russians and the Turks in the year 1788. In that case, the victory of the Russians over the Turks did not principally arise from the superiority of gun boats over ships of the line and frigates. It was a victory of science and refinement over ignorance and barbarism. What has been styled the Lyman Sea is a marshy lake near the mouth of the ancient Boris house, now called the Dni-per. As far as I have been able to ascertain the fact, that lake, in its greatest breadth, is not so broad as the narrowest part of the Chesapeake Bay between the Capes and the Potomac. Below the confluence, with the Nieper, of the river Bug, anciently called the Hyanis, there is a considerable expanse of water which is variously denominated. It is sometimes called the Liman, a Russian term, which denotes a marshy lake; sometimes the Bay of Kinburn; sometimes the estuary of the Nieper. The navigation is difficult at all times, and it is particularly dangerous to bad seamen from the number of shoals, the narrowness of channels, and the variety of currents. The Turks, although long in the possession of it, were ignorant as to that navigation. The Russian flotilla had a commander of distinguished gallantry and skill, with experienced seamen, veteran soldiers, and a tremendous artillery.

It was not from choice that the Russians used gun boats rather than large vessels against the Turks. The Russian fleet of large ships could not be sent round from the Baltic through the Straights of Gibraltar and up the Mediterranean, as early as was desired for securing the Russian fortress of Kinburn. Gallies, gun boats, and various descriptions of light vessels were prepared on the Nieper. The fortress of Kinburn stood on the left bank of the Nieper, near its entrance into the Black Sea. And the Russian flotilla was stationed near the shore in an advantageous position where they were in a great measure covered by the cannon of the fortress.

The Turks had ships of the line, frigates and smaller vessels, and were commanded by their captain Pacha or high admiral Hassan Ali, who had distinguished himself against some revolting beys and mamluks in Egypt, where impetuous valor decided the contest. But the Turkish commander although successful against the Egyptian revolters, could not prevail against the prince of Nassau, who commanded the Russians.

One great object of the Turkish fleet was the fortress of Kinburn, which was particularly important to the Russians for holding possession of the Crimea or Tauric Chersonesus so much regarded by the Russian government.

There were three engagements between the Turks and the Russians in the bay of Kinburn. In the first instance, the Turkish commander employed his smaller vessels amounting to fifty seven, for attacking the prince of Nassau with twenty seven sail. The Turkish assailants were repulsed.

Afterwards Hassan Ali, impatient of defeat, entered the Liman with his principal fleet, regardless of the shallowness of the navigation; but in the mean time, the prince of Nassau had received a reinforcement of 22 vessels, with one gun each. A Turkish ship of the line was soon aground, assailed on all sides, and blew up. A similar fate attended the admiral ship of the captain Pacha. Ignorance of the navigation, inferiority in seamanship, want of skill in the management of artillery, exposed the Turks, with their impetuosity and ideas of fatalism, to be defeated by the superior skill and management on the part of the Russians.

The next morning several more of the Turkish ships were found stranded; and a battle ensued, which continued for more than four hours. The Turks were defeated, and their commander, immediately after the action, abandoned the enterprize and sailed from the Nieper.

In voting for the bill on the table, he would not be understood to say, that he thought other means of defence unnecessary. He disclaimed the idea. Gunboats would be found altogether useless in the northern waters, and he could not for a moment suppose the people solicitous for a mode of defence which must, upon experiment, prove altogether nugatory. As to their safety, he was not disposed to say much on the subject. It might, however, be recollected, that a number of these boats, not exceeding ten, had sailed for the Mediterranean in the most favorable season of the year, and that one of them was lost.—This was not a very strong proof of their safety.

The opinion of naval gentlemen had been introduced to shew the efficacy of gunboats. What was the opinion of captain Decatur on this subject? In his letter to the secretary of the navy, he expresses his hope, that if any other kind of naval force was employed, he would not be kept on board a gunboat. This was as strong language as an officer of honor and sensibility could use to his government, and was sufficient to shew that he had but little confidence in the efficacy of gunboats.

He wished he could see some additional mode of defence proposed. Gentlemen had

told them he would meet it fairly when it was proposed. He preferred having a view of the whole system of defence at once—not, however, that he doubted the candor of gentlemen.

[Debate to be continued.]

LEGISLATURE,

HOUSE OF DELEGATES, MARYLAND.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9.

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

Mister Little delivered a bill, entitled, An act authorising a lottery for raising a sum of money for the rector and vestry of Saint-Thomas's parish in Baltimore county; which was read.

A petition from William Mills Beavans, of Worcester county, praying that the register of the land office may be directed to correct a warrant issued to him, and a petition from Sally Flemming, of New-York, praying she may be authorised to sell the real estate of her late husband, for the benefit of her children, were preferred, read and referred.

Leave given to bring in a bill relative to writs of *capias ad satisfaciendum*.

The following order was read. Ordered, That no motion for an adjournment shall be received, by the chair until after the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon.

And the question put, That the house agree to the same? Determined in the negative.

The clerk of the senate delivered the following message:

We have assented to your resolution, regulating the election of two directors on the part of the state in the Farmers Bank of Maryland. Mr. William Hayward and Mr. William Kilty are put in nomination by the senate, and we have appointed Mr. Williams and Mr. Partridge to join the gentlemen who may be named by your house to examine the ballots.

Which was read. The following message was sent to the Senate.

We have received your message of this day, proposing to proceed immediately to the election of two directors on the part of this state in the Farmers Bank of Maryland. David Kerr, jun. is put in nomination by this house in addition to the gentlemen named by your house. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Stone are appointed by this house to join the gentleman named by you to examine the ballots.

A petition from Susannah Beamer, praying a divorce, and a petition from sundry inhabitants of Montgomery and Prince-George's counties, praying for a road, were preferred, read, and referred.

Mr. J. E. Spencer delivered a bill, entitled, An act relative to writs of *capias ad satisfaciendum*; which was read.

Mr. T. Dorsey delivered a bill, entitled, An act to provide for the discharge of insolvent debtors in Baltimore county; which was read.

Mr. Hopewell has leave of absence.

A petition from Thomas Meredith, of Baltimore county, praying that the Treasurer may refund to him money overpaid by his deceased brother for confiscated property, was preferred, read, and referred.

The bill to enlarge the powers of the trustees of the poor, of Montgomery county, was read the second time, and passed.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Kent county, counter to the petition of John Moore, and a petition from sundry inhabitants of Frederick county, praying for a road, were preferred, read and referred.

The house proceeded to a ballot for two directors in the Farmers Bank of Maryland, and upon examining the ballots it appeared, that William Kilty and William Hayward were elected; they were accordingly declared directors in the Farmers Bank on behalf of the state for the ensuing year.

Mr. Bruce delivered a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act authorising the collection of certain ground-rents due on lots in the town of Cumberland; which was read.

Mr. Kuhn delivered a bill, entitled, An act to open a road to Gracchan, in Frederick county; which was read.

Ordered, That the second reading of the further additional supplementary act to the act entitled, An act for quieting possessions, enrolling conveyances, and securing the estates of purchasers, be postponed until Friday next.

A petition from Robert Dawson, of Queen-Anne's county, praying an act of insolvency, was preferred, read, and referred. Mr. Shaaff delivered a favourable report on the memorial of Jeremiah T. Chase; which was read.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill to incorporate a fire insurance company in the city of Baltimore, and after making an amendment thereto,

Ordered, That the said bill be recommitted for amendment.

Ordered, that the committee which prepared and brought in said bill be discharged, and that Mr. Shaaff, Mr. Stone, Mr. C. Dorsey, Mr. W. H. Brown and Mr. J. E. Spencer, be a committee to amend the same.

Mr. Harryman delivered a favourable report on the petition of Thomas Meredith; which was read.

The report on the petition of Robert C. Stone, and others, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith, and assent to the resolution therein contained? Determined in the negative, yeas 29, nays 37.

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning.