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THE JOURNAL.

By John, jr. & George R. Braddock.

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum, if paid in advance, or two dollars and fifty cents at the end of the year. No paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid off—unless at the option of the editor.

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Maryland Legislature.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 26, 1846.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, it was ordered that the Treasurer report the names of such agents of non-resident insurance companies as may have failed to comply with a law requiring them to pay into the Treasury a certain per centage on premiums, &c.

On motion of Mr. Cox, the committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice was directed to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill fixing the gross amount of fees of officers in civil suits.

Mr. Boon, from a select committee, reported a bill to abolish the High Court of Chancery. Referred to a standing committee.

A bill from the Senate authorizing the Chesapeake & Delaware canal to charge passengers, was taken up. The bill as passed the Senate, fixed the maximum rate of toll at fifty cents; but it was amended by substituting thirty-seven and a half cents, for that sum, one-third to go to the State, and passed.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Jan. 27.—A bill reported by Mr. Johnson, from the committee of Ways and Means, providing for the better security of the collection of taxes on inheritances and distributive shares, was taken up, amended, and re-committed.

The resolutions submitted by Mr Schley, some days since, providing a board of commissioners to settle the boundary line between Maryland and Virginia, were taken up. After some debate they were laid over till the 6th of next month.

IN SENATE.—A bill incorporating the Black River Mining company was passed

The biennial session bill was taken up, but further postponed.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Jan. 28.—The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Adjutant General, in obedience to an order, in reference to the ordnance received from the General Government.

Also, a report from the Treasurer, exhibiting the expenses of the State, for purposes of education, &c.

Mr. Johnson presented a memorial from the Maryland Mining company, praying the exemption of coal from pilotage.

Mr. Hollyday, from the Committee, made a favorable report in regard to the action of B. C. Howard and John S. Skinner, in reference to the loan of this State to the General Government, during the late war. Concurred in.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Jan. 29.—On motion of Mr. Stephenson, the Committee on the Militia was directed to inquire into the expediency of a law for the collection of such arms and equipments as may have been used by disbanded companies.

Mr. Johnson, from the committee, reported a bill taxing lottery tickets. Ordered to be printed.

A bill to incorporate the Marine railway and Screw Dock company, was reported.

Also, a bill for electing the register of wills and clerk of Hartford county by the people.

A bill for the relief of the Union company, and for the organization of the Cumberland Coal Mining company, was passed. [Upon this bill there was a warm and lengthy debate; but it was passed by a vote of 45 to 21.]

IN SENATE.—Dr. Phelps called up the bill reported by him, providing for biennial sessions of the Legislature. It was passed by a vote of 12 to 5.

Leave was obtained to report a bill supplementary to act of 1801, ch. 63, relating to the inspection of tobacco.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Jan. 30.—The Speaker presented a report from the Treasurer, exhibiting the accounts kept with the agents of non-resident insurance companies, under an order of the House.

IN SENATE.—A petition was received from citizens of Baltimore county in favor of a reduction of costs of collections, &c. Referred to the House of Delegates.

Bank Directors.—The following gentlemen were elected by the joint balloting of the House and Senate, directors on the part of the State:

Farmers' Bank of Md.—Rob't Gheislin, of P. G. county; Alex. Kilgour, of Montgomery; Thos. J. Hillen, of Calvert county.

Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore.—Jas. Barroll and J. R. Magruder, of Baltimore city.

Bank of Hagerstown—Andrew Kershner and Isaac Newcomer.

Branch of the Farmers' Bank, at Easton.—James E. Barroll, of Kent county; James Dickens, of Dorchester, and Jacob C. Wilson, of Caroline county.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Jan. 31.—Mr. Selby obtained leave to report a bill to render Clerks and Registers ineligible for a second term.

Also a bill to modify the tax on Clerks and Registers.

Mr. Clagett obtained leave to report a bill to reduce the salary of the Treasurer to $1500.

Also, a bill for reducing the salary of the State Librarian to $600, and to abolish all perquisites.

Mr. Ferguson obtained leave to report a bill regulating writs of error and appeals.

Also, a bill supplementary to an act of 1842, relating to trusts.

On motion of Mr. Biser the Lottery Commissioners were directed to report the amount of revenue from the Consolidated Lotteries, for the three past years, and at what time these grants will expire, according to the ratio of sales for that period.

On motion of Mr. Stephenson, the Committee on Colored Population was directed to inquire into the expediency of additional laws providing for binding out the children of free negroes.

Mr. Hollyday made a report showing the amount of the claim ($130,405) of this State, under a loan to the General Government during the late war. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Johnson reported a bill reducing the maximum charge of toll on passengers on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

IN SENATE.—The following bills from the House were passed:

A bill providing for amending writs of attachment.

A bill for the speedy collection of the public revenue.

A bill authorizing appeals in certain cases.

A bill providing for the reading of the statutes of other States, as evidence in the courts of this State.

Also, a resolution authorizing clerks to sell certain laws.

A warm debate took place in the Maryland House of Delegates, on the 29th ult. on the bill "for the relief of the Union Company and for the organization of the Cumberland Coal Mining Company." The correspondent of the Baltimore Clipper, in his notice of it, says:

"Messrs. Johnson, Murray, Schley, McLane, Bowie and Swann, defended the bill. Messrs. Ware and Clagett opposed the bill. Mr. Ware was most zealous in his opposition, the debate embracing all the great questions involved in the various internal improvement companies. Mr. Ware took occasion to say that he was in possession of the fact that a bribe of $500 had been offered to a member of a former Legislature to vote for the canal bill. This called up Mr. Swann, of Allegany, who questioned the *fact;* and some explanation was attempted, but Mr. S. expressed his entire unbelief as to the offer of a bribe, and said if Mr. W. vouched for it he should doubt his veracity. Several voices from various parts of the House (among whom I noticed Messrs. Bowie, Johnson, Schley, and McLane,) called out, 'give his name; give his name.'

Mr. Ware said, 'I state here upon my personal responsibility, that Mr. Harris, of Cecil county, told me he had been offered the bribe.'

"After some explanation between Mr. Schley and Mr. Ware, the subject was dropped."

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.—Extract of a letter from Washington to the New York Gazette:

Mr. McLane's despatches have at length arrived, and though not containing any matter of immediate connection with the adjustment of the Oregon question, they *confirm in the strongest terms,* and upon the *best authority,* the opinion derived from the British press and from private communications, of the *preservation of peace.* Assurances of the most reliable character are given that the present Ministry anxiously and sincerely desire to bring these difficulties to a close upon terms of honorable compromise, in which every *legal* and *equitable* regard will be paid to the pretensions of the United States.

A PREDICTION.—We trust that War is far distant from us. Yet, should war come, to-day or to morrow, this year or next year, or at any other time, we venture to predict, and to ask that it may be remembered when the occasion fits, that those citizens, whether East or West, who have opposed war so long as the will of the majority of the people is unascertained, will, war once declared, be found, in determination and effort, to prosecute it effectively, rather in front than in rear of those who may have been most clamorous for it.—*Nat. Int.*

DEATH OF MR. BURTON.—William E. Burton, the well known comedian and theatrical manager, died in Philadelphia on Saturday last, after an illness of four days, from quinsy and sore throat.

Governor SMITH, of Virginia, has appointed the 19th of February as the day for holding an election to fill the vacancy in Congress occasioned by the death of the Hon. WILLIAM TAYLOR.

MEXICO—LATER STILL.—By the arrival of the bark Pario, Capt. Kinney, the New Orleans papers have advices from Vera Cruz to the 13th, and from the city of Mexico to the 8th ult. The news is highly important, and renders war between the United States and Mexico, quite probable. We gather the following intelligence from our New Orleans exchanges:—*Balt. Clipper.*

We learn that Mr. Slidell had demanded of the new Government his passports, and received in reply that, as he had never been recognized by the Government and was unknown to them, no passports were necessary; and he was at liberty to go where he pleased. He then demanded an escort to Vera Cruz, which was refused; whereupon he despatched a messenger to the brig Somers, and a number of the officers of that vessel had determined to proceed to Jalapa for the purpose of escorting him to the coast. The Somers arrived at Vera Cruz on the 6th. It will be recollected that she sailed from Pensacola about twenty days since, with sealed orders. We place confidence in the reports with regard to Mr. Slidell, except perhaps the statement that the officers of the Somers had gone to his assistance; and if he had in fact been refused a safe escort by the Mexican Government, nothing can be more reasonable or probable than that our Naval officers within reach of his call should resolve not to leave him to the perils of the journey alone. Letters of the 13th, however, only make mention of the fact that Mr. Slidell had demanded his passports, "having failed in the objects of his mission."

The United States brig Somers, Commander Gerry, was at Sacrificios on the 13th, as also the British brig Persian, the French brig Griffon, and the Spanish brig Patriota.

FROM SIERRA LEONE.—*Capture of Slavers.*—The New Orleans Picayune has a copy of the Sierra Leone Watchman of the 29th November, from which are gleaned the following items:

A war was raging in the Sherbro country, and the whole territory had been overrun and reduced to ashes.—Timboo, the residence of King Sycummah, a short distance from Sherbro, had been entirely destroyed.

Several vessels, captured by British cruisers, had been taken into Freetown for adjudication. The brig Regenerator (condemned under the name of Atala last April, by the Court of Mixed Commission) brig Unaia, brigantine Isabella, barque Princessa, and a schooner name unknown, all Brazilian, were the vessels captured. The Princessa was taken by H. B. M. sloop Lilly, off Cape Mount, just in the act of embarking 800 slaves. Being alarmed by the signal-light of the sloop, the slaves were hurriedly sent off to the barracoons. The Unaia was seized in the Bight of Benin with 347 slaves.

FROM HAYTI.—Captain Holmes, of the schr. Susan, arrived at New York on Saturday morning, from Port au Platte, reports that the three Haytien men of war, which were cast away near that place, had fallen into the hands of the Dominicans, who made prize of them, and captured their crews, consisting of 150 persons. They had succeeded in getting two of the vessels off, and saved the guns, spars, sails, &c., from the other, which would be a total loss.

TERRIBLE SHIPWRECK.—*Four hundred and Fourteen Lives Lost.*—The New York Express has received Van Dieman's Land papers to the 23d Sept. The Melbourne Herald of the 13th of September, gives the particulars of one of the most horrible shipwrecks on record, by which 414 lives were lost.—The "Cataraqui," Captain G. W. Finlay, (emigrant ship of 800 tons,) sailed from Liverpool on the 20th of April, with 369 emigrants, and a crew, including two doctors, forty-six souls. The emigrants were principally from Bedfordshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, and Nottinghamshire. About 120 of the passengers were married, with families, and in all seventy-three children. Nothing occurred worthy of notice until the 4th of August, on which day the ship went ashore in a violent gale, on a reef situated on the west coast of King's Island, at the entrance of Bass' Straits. The ship filled in a few hours, and thro' night a scene of horror was exhibited without parallel. Before morning but 30 of the company were alive, the rest having been swept into eternity by the waves. Out of the whole crew only nine were saved.

HENRY CLAY AND THE ALOE.—We have been permitted to read a letter from a distinguished Whig of Matthews county, (in Wise's old district,) Va., to his friend in this city. We take from it the following appropriate and beautiful extract:—*Lexington (Ky.) Observer.*

"I have been long trying to get my domestic matters in such condition as would enable me to visit your State, more to see Mr. Clay than for any other purpose, and if God spares my life and his, another year, I mean to go, and if he dies, still I'll go, and see his grave and weep over it, bring some of the earth from it, and put it round an aloe, that my wife is growing—for such a man as he, like the aloe, blooms but once a century, if, indeed, so often."

THE JOURNAL.

ROCKVILLE, MD.

SATURDAY, :: FEBRUARY 7, 1846.

THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.—All men, of every party, in private and in public, when brought to the test, willingly or reluctantly acknowledge that "honesty is the best policy" in political as well as private affairs. The Machiavelian maxims, which warranted deception and finesse, as means of success in the contests of party, have been condemned by the combined influence of civilization and christianity; and, although not abandoned, the superior weight and authority of Truth are admitted by the plausible professions of the demagogue, "who seems a saint when most he plays the sinner."

Presuming these premises will not be denied by any party or politician, the question recurs, what policy (or course of conduct in public affairs) does Honesty demand of every citizen of Maryland, whig or democrat, in the present juncture?

Oppressed with debt, originally contracted with the consent of the leading men of all parties, for the development of her natural resources, the augmentation of her wealth, and to secure her future independence and prosperity, the first duty of every citizen of the State is, to devote every energy to the payment of obligations incurred for these high and patriotic purposes.

Magnificent as were the schemes of internal improvement, adopted by the statesmen of 1825, (the odium of which timid members of each party have since been anxious to throw on the other in moments of strife and gloom,) they would, ere this, have been mighty and glorious monuments of the enterprise and intelligence of the State, if they had been honestly *owned* and cherished by those who brought them into life. But, instead of this, disinterested spectators have seen them made the footballs of faction, now petted and now spurned, as suited the change of popular prejudice.

After twenty years of travail, they are still assailed by those wasps, who seek distinction by lighting on some object, whose magnitude and brightness may make even flies conspicuous. By services like these, has many a small man crawled into public life, with no capacity but that of mischief or malevolence.

With similar motives, or a like destructive tendency, combinations are now forming to embarrass the successful operation of a Whig Administration in extinguishing the State debt, and restoring its ancient fame, by clamoring for Conventional Reform.

It is not enough for those *zealous patriots* that they convulsed the State to its centre in 1836, and led their misguided votaries to the verge of rebellion; it is not enough that they set the first example of deliberate violation of their constitutional oaths, in the nineteen recusant Electors; it is not enough that, to gratify moderate Reformers, the constitution was, in 1838, remodelled in all its essential features, and Locofoco Governors, for six years, dispensed the patronage of the State to their faithful followers, who saw nothing to reform while they enjoyed the offices and their salaries. No, it is not enough; but, like the horse leech's daughter, they cry—"give, give!"

We are no adversaries to amendments of the Constitution of the State, or a thorough remodelling of that instrument, either by convention or the Assembly, constitutionally effected; but we protest against the agitation of new themes of discussion, and the diversion of the friends of the State, in making new Constitutions, until the debts and honor of the State, are measurably redeemed.—What would be thought of the *sanity* of the crew of a ship, laboring in a storm and sinking with leaks, who, instead of resorting to the pumps, should busy themselves about new charts, or reducing the Captain's wages? Lighten, we say, the vessel of State, until she rides easy, throw overboard all that can be spared, reduce, if you please, the wages of the Captain and crew, when it can be done in good faith, but hold fast to the sheet anchor and jolly boat, until we have weathered this gale.

☞ We have received a letter from one of our Representatives in the Legislature, in which several objections to the law of the last session for the election of our County Commissioners, are stated, and a plan suggested which, the writer thinks, would obviate all difficulties, but which he is unwilling to bring before the Legislature "without some instruction from the people of the county, or some evidence of their wishes."

We do not see how this instruction or evidence can now be given. It is too late for the people to convene in public meetings for that purpose, and we would therefore, advise our Representative to act upon his own responsibility in this matter—being assured that the people of Montgomery will sustain him in any effort he may make to remedy defects in the existing law.

☞ MR. HOLLIDAY, of Cecil, has favored us with a copy of the Bill reported by him in the House of Delegates on the subject of conventional reform. He regrets that we should differ as to the best mode of obtaining all necessary reform of the Constitution. We have no doubt that Mr. Holliday is sincere in his belief that the best and cheapest mode is, by the passage of the bill which he has submitted. We are equally sincere in the contrary opinion. We will endeavor to give the bill a place in our next paper.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS FOR MEXICO.—We learn from the N. York Herald, says the Baltimore Clipper, that the naval force in the Gulf is to be increased immediately. Orders have already been issued to the several rendezvous to enlist quite a large number of seamen, and the destination of the frigate Cumberland has been changed from the Coast of Africa to the Gulf of Mexico. It is thought that she will be the flag ship.—Other preparations are making which are deemed necessary in the present position of our relations with Mexico.

RETROCESSION.—Both Houses of the Virginia Legislature suspended their rules, on Tuesday last, for the purpose of passing (and unanimously, too, in both houses) an act of retrocession, "accepting by the State of Virginia *the county of Alexandria in the District of Columbia,* when the same shall be receded by the Congress of the United States."

☞ A rumor was prevalent in Washington, yesterday, that a duel took place a few days since, near Lexington, Ky. between THOMAS F. MARSHALL and CASSIUS M. CLAY, in which the former was killed and the latter mortally wounded.

☞ We notice by a circular received from the office of the Cumberland Civilian, that J. HENRY CLAY MUDD, Esq. has become associated with Mr. PRICE in the future proprietorship of that excellent and ably conducted Journal.—They intend to publish it semi-weekly. Messrs. Mudd and Price are both gentlemen of fine talents, and we doubt not that their journal will be as ably edited as any in the State. We wish them every success.

☞ The "American Farmer" for February is now before us. This number, besides its very useful and interesting matter, contains a number of very fine Cuts. We are surprised that our farmers do not patronize this work, as it is generally acknowledged to be the best and cheapest agricultural paper published in the country. All who feel disposed to subscribe, can do so by leaving their names at this office.

☞ Mr. PATTERSON, of this county, has obtained leave to introduce a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY arrived at New Orleans on the 19th instant from Natchez. Mr. Clay was tendered a public dinner during his short sojourn at Natchez, but declined the honor.

BANK DIRECTOR.—RICHARD H. HALL Esq., has been appointed by the Senate, a director in the Bank of Baltimore, on the part of the State.

☞ We return our thanks to J. N. Allnutt, Esq. one of our delegates, for his politeness in furnishing us with the Legislative Journal.

CONGRESSIONAL.—The *Senate* yesterday again passed by the Navy Increase Bill, being quite evidently in no haste to act upon it.

In the *House of Representatives* the debate upon the Oregon subject went on, in the usual strain. *A bill* to give the notice, &c. was introduced, among the morning business, by Mr. DROMGOOLE, which was referred, as all preceding propositions have been, to the Committee of the Whole. We may regard as a favorable symptom the introduction, by Mr. BLACK, of South Carolina, of a *qualified* resolution for giving the notice, &c.

A resolution was adopted, in the House, on the motion of Mr. COLLAMER, not without serious opposition, making substantially the same call as has been made in the Senate upon the Executive for communications concerning the Oregon controversy which may have passed between the two Governments since those communicated with the President's annual message.

Meanwhile, a rumor was very current yesterday, in the Rotundo and in the streets, that negotiation on the subject has been resumed, and is at this time going on in this city between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Great Britain.—*Nat. Int. of February* 4.

☞ We have received the "Young People's Magazine," edited by Seba Smith, and published by J. K. Willman, of New York. This is certainly one of the prettiest magazines of the day. The engraving of the *Fawn* is elegantly executed, and the *Wild Rose* a painting of the most exquisite beauty. We recommend this work particularly to our youthful friends, as it contains much solid and useful reading, and the subscription only one dollar a year,

We have also received the "Literary Emporium," published by the same gentleman. This work, besides its useful and entertaining matter, is richly embellished and recommends itself highly to all the lovers of elegant literature.

☞ The "Evening Ledger" is the title of a new penny paper published in New York, by GREEN & Co at three dollars a year, or one cent a single number. If we are to judge of the character of this paper from the number before us, we do not exaggerate in saying, that it is inferior to no paper published in this country. We take pleasure in recommending the Ledger to our reading friends. A copy can be seen by calling at this office.

A FATAL DUEL.—We have been grieved to learn, and are now pained to inform our readers, that a Duel was fought yesterday morning, near Bladensburg, between Dr. DANIEL JOHNSON and THOMAS F. JONES, Esq., of Perquimons county, (North Carolina,) which terminated at the first fire in the instantaneous death of the former.

It is said that the surviving combatant, and his second, were arrested upon the spot by the civil authorities of the county, (Prince George's, Maryland.)—*Int.*

The navigation of the Potomac at this place is again open. There were several arrivals of vessels yesterday.

The Canal navigation will doubtless, in a few days, be also unobstructed, as the ice in all quarters is fast disappearing under the sultry atmosphere and heavy rains.—*Georgetown Advocate.*

DIVORCE.—The bill which passed the House a few days since, divorcing ELIZABETH BOOTH, of Delaware, from WM. CHASE BARNEY, of Maryland, passed the Senate yesterday. She is restored by the law to all her former rights and privileges. The reason assigned for the divorce is, that the marriage ceremony was performed in a language unknown to the young lady, and therefore declared a fraud: and, as such, null and void. *Annapolis (Md.) Herald.*

The payment of the interest on the State Debt of Pennsylvania, which fell due on the 1st instant, was promptly paid at Philadelphia on Monday last.

The Markets.

GEORGETOWN, *Feb.* 3, 1846.

FLOUR.—Market rather unsettled, and we hear of no transactions to-day. There are buyers at $4.75.

WHEAT.—Prices remain the same as last quoted—viz. 95a100 cts.—*Advocate.*

ALEXANDRIA, *Feb.* 3, 1846.

FLOUR.—There is no change in the market since our last. Small sales have been made from stores at $4.75. The wagon price has settled down to $4.62.

GRAIN.—Nothing in wheat. The receipts are confined to a few wagon loads. We quote 100a102c for good red; 106a108c for white. One cargo white corn sold at 60c. Clover Seed is dull at $6.50.

TOBACCO.—Maryland Tobacco $2.50a$7. *Gazette.*

BALTIMORE, *Feb.* 4, 1846.

FLOUR.—The market for Howard street flour has been quite inactive the last few days, and we are without transactions to report. There are buyers at $4.75, but dealers are not disposed to sell at this price, and are asking $4 87. The last settlements for receipts from cars were at $4.62.

City Mills flour is held firmly at $5, but we hear of no sales.

Holders of Susquehanna also ask $5.

GRAIN.—The small lots of wheat coming in by wagons sell at 100 cts. for the best reds.

Corn is in limited demand; we quote at about 57a58 cts. and yellow at 60a62 cts.

We quote oats at 38a39 cts.—*American.*