



THE STAR

EASTON, Md.

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1844

For the information of the writer of the last Gazette's editorial, we will state that Mr. Thomas' speech was re-published by us from the Annapolis Herald, word for word, excepting, of course, typographical errors.

Nothing of interest having transpired in either branch of Congress during the past week we omit our usual summary.

The bill for the transfer of the United States Stock in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to the State of Maryland, passed the U. S. Senate on Tuesday last by a vote of 32 to 11.

The Tax Bill, has passed the Senate (we presume without amendment) and is now the law of the land. We shall publish it as soon as we obtain an official copy. The vote in the Senate on its passage, was 12 affirmative to 5 negative.

FREDERICK ELECTION.—Democratic triumph.—George Hoskins, Esq., Democrat, was elected on Monday last, Mayor of the city of Frederick by a majority of upwards of 120 votes.

DUFF GREEN.—Duff Green has already retired from the free trade paper, "the Republic," that he recently established in New York. It grows out of a quarrel between him and his associates, of which the reasons are to be given hereafter.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The State election in New Hampshire will take place on the second Tuesday in March. The whig candidate for Governor is Anthony Colby, the Democratic candidate, John H. Steele.

Monument to General Jackson.—Some owners of property on Fairmount, Baltimore, have proposed to the Council to give to that city a square of ground for the erection of a Monument to Genl. Jackson, provided that it be commenced within two years after his death.

APPOINTMENTS.—The Hon. John Nelson, Attorney General of the United States, will discharge the duties of Secretary of State ad interim, until a successor to the Hon. A. P. Upshur shall be appointed.

Commodore Lewis Warrington, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, is appointed Secretary of the Navy, ad interim, until a successor to the Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer is appointed, and will, without delay, enter upon the duties of the office.

DEATH OF NICHOLAS BIDDLE.—Late President of the United States Bank.—The Philadelphia Gazette of Tuesday afternoon says:—"For some months past it has been known to the friends of Nicholas Biddle that his health was greatly impaired, and his permanent recovery doubtful. It is our painful task to announce that the disease which has so long afflicted him, terminated his life this morning, at Andalusia. The hour of his death was about four o'clock."

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The Globe says:—"We have received a letter requesting us to publish the day on which the Democratic National Convention will meet in Baltimore to nominate candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. Monday, the 27th day of May next, is the day being the fourth Monday of that month."

As the writer of the letter to us says, that as some of the "delegates to the convention are mistaken about the time," we think the Democratic papers generally should publish the day.

CANAL BILL.—The bill providing for a completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, is still under consideration in the House. The motion to reconsider the vote striking out the provision for the issue of bonds for \$2,000,000 and increasing \$1,545,000, is still pending. The discussion has taken a wide range, embracing the merits of the whole bill. Messrs. Johnson, Wootton, McKnight, Murray, and Chapman, advocated the original bill. Messrs. Carey, Franklin, and Pender, oppose it. The opposition is founded principally upon the fact that the sum of \$2,000,000 is not needed for its completion, and that as a matter of policy it would be better to employ the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a feeder to the Canal. The motion will not, we imagine, prevail; and much room is left to doubt whether any bill likely to effect the object contemplated will be passed. It seems generally conceded, however, that provision shall be made for keeping the work in market for sale.

There has been several substitutes already offered for the original bill, which will come up for action when the bill now under consideration shall have passed through the ordeal of completion.—Herald.

THE PRESBYTERY.—More Rumors.—It is well known that the Washington letter writers—especially for the northern press—abound with all kinds of rumors, and are therefore not to be implicitly relied on. The latest rumor we find in one of those letters is, that it is whispered in Washington that Mr. Van Buren will, beyond all doubt, receive the regular nomination of the Democratic National Convention, at Baltimore; but that as that occasion some one will get up and read a letter from Mr. Van Buren, declining for the sake of bargain, and recommending Gen. Cass, for the office of President of the United States. The Democratic National Convention then will nominate Gen. Cass.

LEGISLATIVE TYRANNY.—One of the most brazen efforts to inflict upon the people the operations of an odious and unjust law was made by the Whigs in the Maryland House of Delegates last week. The bill was reported by a Mr. Yellow of Harford (a whig) under the title of "an act to extend the power of collectors in distraining for State and County taxes." We give the bill entire, and ask the reader's most serious attention to its details.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That in all cases where it may be necessary for any collector of State, county or city taxes to distrain for the same, that it shall be the duty of said collector first to deliver to the party against whom he is about to proceed, or to his or her agent a statement in writing showing the aggregate amount of the assessment of the party, the rate of taxation thereon, and the amount of taxes due, such statement to show in distinct items, the rate and amount of State taxes, and the rate and amount of county or city taxes, and the years for which the same may respectively be due.

SECTION 2. And be it enacted, That whenever any collector of State taxes shall be obliged by the refusal or neglect of payment by any taxpayer to distrain for the same, that then it shall and may be lawful for such collector in his discretion, to distrain upon the real or personal property of the party so in default and said collector may sell any real property so distrained upon, at the Court House door of the county, district or city, upon giving at least twenty days notice of such sale in some newspaper published in the county, district or city, and where no newspaper is published in the county or district then a public advertisement set up at least twenty days at the Court House door, and two of the most public places of the neighborhood of the property to be sold; and it shall be the duty of any collector selling real property under this section upon payment of the purchase money; to give a good and sufficient deed of conveyance therefor; provided, that at the time of distraining upon any real estate as aforesaid, the collector shall serve upon the party liable for the same, a notice in writing of such distress, and of the amount of the aggregate amount of the assessment of the party, the amount of taxes due, and the year for which the same became due, and the time and place at which the property will be offered for sale; and provided further, that it shall be the privilege of the taxpayer, his heirs or legal representatives, at any time within six months after the day of sale, to redeem any real estate sold under this section, by paying to the purchaser, his heirs or assigns, double the amount of the purchase money paid therefor.

SECTION 3. And be it enacted, That collectors making sales under this act shall be entitled to the same commissions as are now allowed by law to constables making sales under writs of fieri facias; and that said collectors after retaining the taxes due and the commissions and costs of sale shall pay over the balance of the monies received from such sales, to the party distrained upon or his legal representatives.

SECTION 4. And be it enacted, That any collector, after making a distress upon personal property for taxes, may if he deem it necessary remove the property distrained upon to any place of safe keeping, the costs of removal and keeping said property to be allowed to said collector out of the proceeds of the sale; by the board of commissioners, levy court or other proper authority of the county, city or Howard district.

SECTION 5. And be it enacted, That if any person or persons shall remove or conceal, or aid in removing or concealing any property distrained upon for taxes, for the purpose of preventing a sale of the same, that such person or persons shall be liable to a presentment before the county court of the district or city where such parties may reside and on conviction thereof shall be fined by the amount of taxes for which such distress may have been made.

SECTION 6. And be it enacted, That whenever any person or persons shall resist any collector in the discharge of his duties, by threats, menaces, unlawful combinations, or otherwise not amounting to an actual breach of the peace, that such person or persons offending shall be liable to a presentment before the county court of the county, where such party may reside, and upon conviction of such offence, the party so offending shall be fined by said court, in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, or imprisoned in the county jail, for a term not exceeding one month.

SECTION 7. And be it enacted, That whenever any collector of State or county taxes shall have good reason to apprehend forcible resistance in the discharge of his duties, he shall be authorized to summon a posse comitatus, to assist him in the same manner and as fully as sheriffs are now authorized to summon such posse comitatus.

SECTION 8. And be it enacted, That any person or persons guilty of an assault and battery upon any collector in the discharge of his duties under this act, or upon any person summoned to aid any collector in the discharge of his duties, shall upon presentment and conviction thereof, be sentenced to a fine not less than one hundred, or more than one thousand dollars; and any person or persons assaulting or beating any person attending the sale of property by a collector, with the view of intimidating such person from bidding at such sale, or assaulting or beating any person for reason of his having bid at such sale, upon conviction thereof, on presentment before the county court of the county, or Howard district, or Baltimore city court, every such offender shall be fined by said court, in a sum not less than one hundred or more than one thousand dollars or sentenced to imprisonment in the jail of the county, district or city for a term not less than six months, or more than two years.

SECTION 9. And be it enacted, That whenever any person or persons, may be charged with any offence under the sixth and eighth sections of this act upon satisfactory proof of such offence given to the Attorney General or his deputy for the county, district or city wherein said offence may have been committed, if said Attorney General or his deputy shall believe that an arrest or citation cannot be obtained in such county, district or city, then it shall be his duty to cause the necessary witnesses to be summoned before the grand jury of some other county, whereupon the said grand jury upon satisfactory proof, shall indict the parties charged, and upon such indictment being found, the same proceedings shall be had thereon, and the cases tried in such court, in the same manner as if the indictment had been found in the court of the county, district or city wherein the offence had been committed, provided the State or party indicted shall have the same right to the removal of the case for trial as if the indictment had been found in the county and district or city in which the offence may have been committed.

SECTION 10. And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the judges of the courts in this State to give this act special attention in charge to the grand juries at each term of said courts.

SECTION 11. And be it enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

A more iniquitous bill was, probably, never presented to the consideration of the people's representatives. We in fact object to the whole machinery of the bill, and are at loss for language sufficiently condemnatory of so vile and monstrous a compound. Obnoxious and injustice everywhere show themselves beneath the ragged habiliments which cover this deformed bantering of the Whig Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Delegates. But the 9th section is rather more distinguishable for its monstrosity than any other, and we therefore call particular attention to it. Collectors are clothed with the power of despoil, and the citizen is liable to arrest, if by word or deed he intimate opposition to their official duties.

The Deputy Attorney General has, if possible, still greater power. He can take a citizen, like a malefactor, from Talbot to Allegany to be tried, at his (the prosecutor's) mere will and pleasure. In short, the powers granted these two officers by the act strike at the most inestimable blessings of the citizen—the freedom of speech and the right of trial by his peers.

Citizens of Talbot, is this the relief you seek from the hands of your representatives? Verily, no! We ask you to ponder this subject, and give to it your serious consideration. It is worthy of you.

Messrs. Jas. A. Stewart and P. F. Thomas opposed the bill in able speeches. It was finally committed to the Committee from which it emanated.

Irregularity in the Election Returns in Harford.—We have learned that the returns from four of the election districts in Harford, of the late election, viz: Hall's X Roads, Abington, Marshall's and Dublin, are altogether irregular; the poll books not showing, by certificate, that the Judges of the election in those districts took the oath required by law, before holding the election. We understand further, that they did not take the oaths at all, and that in one of the districts, Hall's X Roads, there appears to have been returned a greater number of votes, as having been counted, than the number of names on the poll books for that district. We do not know whether this informality of the returns, and the failure of the Judges to take the oaths will vitiate the election or not, the opinion seems to be that it will so far as these districts are concerned. If that be the correct opinion, Dr. Preston will lose his seat in Congress. This matter will be investigated further, and it should be.—Ceil Democrat.

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION.—A bill has been introduced in Council to repeal the act of 1837 dividing the State into Congressional Districts. An act has been passed by both Houses, providing for framing a new constitution for that State. The election will be held in the several counties and townships in the State on the 18th day of March next. The delegates chosen are to meet at Trenton on the 14th day of May, to frame a constitution, which they are subsequently to deliver, duly signed by the officers, to the Governor of the State, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of the State. An election to determine whether the people will accept or reject the constitution, will be held on the 2d Tuesday of August. Each member of the Convention is to receive \$3 per day during its session.

An American Consul Absconded.—We find the following not very flattering notice in the St. John's (N. E. Journal of Jan. 4.) "The American Vice Consul at this port has absconded. It appears, having succeeded in making his way into the affections of some of our trusting folks, whom this deflection leaves somewhat minus. He has gone to Pennsylvania, where this act of repudiation will entitle him to a brotherly reception. The Editor of the Morning Post had the Seals of Office handed over to him pro tem, previously to the elopement of the prior."

Catholicity in the United States.—It is stated that by the arrival of the *Hibernia*, advices from Rome have been received, that the Right Rev. Bishop Eccleston, of Baltimore, has been nominated Metropolitan Bishop of the United States; Bishop Benedict Fenwick of Boston, Bishop Hughes of New York, Bishop Parcell of Ohio, and Bishop LeBlanc of New Orleans, are to be made Arch Bishops.

MR. CLAY was born on the 12th of April, and will consequently be 67 years old on the 12th day of April next.

There is a lady in Charleston who has crossed the Atlantic 50 times. She has a daughter 13 years old, who has crossed that big pond 13 times.—Smat wimmin.

STATE FINANCES. Mr. Johnson, from the committee on ways and means, made a report on the finances of the State, to the House, from which we gather the following: The funded debt is \$13,204,784 98 Amount held by Balt. and Ohio Rail Road Company, which is no burden to the Treasury 3,200,000 00 Leaving the actual debt \$15,004,784 98

Productive capital of State, independent of Stocks in banks, Baltimore and Washington rail road \$412,500; Baltimore & Ohio R. road, \$195,000; and other stocks \$10,000, making 617,500 00

Being the actual debt of the State, deducting productive capital (other than Bank Stock) at prices which it will command in market. \$11,387,284 98

The amount of capital and credits thus far independent of interest accruing upon it, on 1st Dec. 1843, deducting stock of Balt. & Ohio railroad, for \$3,000,000 included in it, for which State bonds for \$3,200,000 were issued, the bonds now having been used—is \$10,638,284 77

The largest portion of this balance consists of bonds and stocks of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad company, and the Susquehanna & Tide Water Canal Company.

The committee believe that under the most unfavorable circumstances, the capital and credits of the State, now unproductive, could pay five millions of the State debt.

If this be so, what is her actual condition? The debt, deducting productive capital, at present market price, is \$11,387,284 98

She holds unproductive capital and credits 3,000,000 00 Leaving only a balance due of \$6,387,284 98

And of this balance of debt there belongs to the sinking fund \$1,160,075 09

Which leaves \$5,227,209 89

The committee then proceeds to point out in what manner the annual interest on the debt can be paid.

The annual interest on that portion of the debt not secured by specific pledges, is \$628,821 16

Assuming the taxes will be collected in all the counties, it will produce 420,000

Estimate also an increase of taxes properly levied 40,000

The Tide Water Canal is expected to pay interest on the amount loaned 65,000

Dividend from stock held in Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which is applicable to payment of interest on public debt not less than 10,000

From Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad Co. The auction duties, free from other charges 20,000

A bill will be reported to tax collateral inheritances, bequests and distributive shares, producing 20,000

The bill allowing the sale at public auction of State and City Stocks and stocks of all joint companies, &c., by paying a commission of one half of one per cent. is estimated to yield 15,000

To which may be added a tax on protested notes, bills of exchange, silver plate and watches, on different classes of brokers, theatrical and other exhibitions, imposed by law of 1841, not less than 30,000

Making in all an annual revenue of \$630,000

Should these estimates be realized, and the committee think they will, there will be abundant means to enable the State to meet the demands of the public creditors.

The committee then proceed to show how the arrears of interest may be paid to the close of the last fiscal year: The amount being \$1,171,872 87

Bank stock, \$510,966 66

due for 1841 and 1842, 269,703 29

Sums due from public officers, W. Shore, exclusive of int. 95,129 45

Do. for E. Shore, 28,746 41

Interest due from Tide Water Canal Company, 167,000 00

\$1,071,545 81

Leaving a balance to be provided for of \$100,327 06 to be funded, or satisfied in some other way.

Mr. Carey, from the same committee, said he should submit a different statement. Messrs. Murray and Stewart, also members of the committee, objected to the report.

We have not had an opportunity to examine it so as to offer at present any opinion, but shall do so as early as convenient.

APPALING.—The following lately appeared in a Mobile paper without credit. The deed was no doubt perpetrated by some miserable crazy old bachelor, or rejected lover. It is all epiter: "tho' good in its way."

"Why is a Bustle like a Romance?" "Do ye give it up? 'Tis a tail of fiction founded on a stern reality!"

ST. Valentine's Day.—The number of Valentines sent through the New York City Dispatch Post Office on the 14th, was thirty thousand.

AWFUL CALAMITY. A Nation mourns her most lamentable Catastrophe on Board the Steamship Princeton.

(From the National Intelligencer) Instantaneous Death, by the bursting of the Large Guns on board of the U. S. Ship Princeton, on Saturday, Feb. 27, 1844.

On the whole course of our lives we never fall to our lot to announce a more shocking calamity—reading in all its circumstances and details—than that which occurred on the U. S. Ship Princeton, yesterday afternoon, whilst under way, in the Potomac, 14 or 15 miles below the mouth of the river.

Wednesday was a day appointed for courtesy and hospitality of Capt. Stockton, Commander of the Princeton, for the visiters to his fine ship (lying of an hour, after the arrival of the guests, the vessel got under way and proceeded down the river, to some distance below Fort Washington. During the passage down, one of the large guns on board (carrying a ball of 225 pounds more than once, exhibiting the greater and capacity of that formidable war of war.

The Ladies had partaken of a sumptuous repast; the gentlemen had succeeded them at the table, and some of the left; it was the vessel was on her return to the river, opposite to the fort, where Capt. Stockton consented to fire another salute to observe its effects, many persons gathered, though by no means so numerous as similar discharges in the morning, and out of reach of harm.

The gun was fired. The explosion followed, before the smoke cleared so as to observe its effects, by which gun had burst, at a point where it was from the breech, and scattered debris of desolation around.—Mr. Upshur, Secretary of the Navy, Commodore Kenyon, one of its gallant officers, Virgil Kenyon, lately returned from a diplomatic mission at the Hague, Mr. Gardner, of New York (formerly a member of the Senate or State,) were among the slain. Besides these, seventeen seamen were wounded, several of them badly and probably fatally.—Among those seriously injured were Captain Stockton himself, Col. Benton, of the Senate; Lieut. Hon. Upshur; W. D. Robinson, of Georgetown. Other persons also were more or less injured, of whom, in the horror and confusion of the moment, no account could be obtained. The array believed, however, to comprise the whole of the persons known to the public who were killed or dangerously or seriously hurt.

The scene upon the deck may more fully be imagined than described. Nor the imagination picture to itself the horrors.—Wives, widowed in an instant by the murderous ball! Daughters, ten with the heart-rending sight of their father's lifeless corpse! The wailing, agonized females! The piteous grief of unhurt but heart-stricken spectators! The wounded seamen bowing down below! The silent tears and quivering lips of their silent and honest comrades, who tried in vain to subdue or to conceal their feelings.—Words can adequately depict a scene like this?

The following additional particulars from the letter of the correspondent of Philadelphia Ledger, the writer being board at the time.

The lower part of the gun from the breech was blown off, one half section of it lying on Mr. Upshur's breast. It took two sailors to remove it—his clothes were literally torn from his body—he expired in about three minutes. Gov. Gilmer of Virginia was found equally badly injured. He had evidently been struck by the section of the gun before it had reached Mr. Upshur. Mr. Syles, the member from New Jersey, endeavored to raise him from the ground, but was unable. A mattress was procured, and was placed on it; before any medical assistance could be procured, he was no longer among the living.

Mr. Maxey had his arms and one of his legs cut off, the pieces of flesh hanging to the mutilated limbs, cold and bloodless in a manner truly frightful. He died instantly.

Mr. Gardner, of New York, and Commodore Kennon lingered about half an hour; but they did not seem for a single moment to be conscious of their fate, and expired almost without a groan. The flag of the Union were placed over the dead bodies as they were lying on the deck.

Behind the gun, the scene, though a first equally distressing, was less alarming almost instantly rose to his feet, and jumped on the wooden carriage to survey the whole effect of the calamity. All the hair of his head and face was burnt off and he stood calm and undismayed, but silent over the wreck. In addition to the deaths already mentioned, about a dozen sailors were badly wounded; one was dead, and

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE. Great loss of Cotton, estimated at Three Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars!!

The New Orleans Bee of the 12th states that a fire occurred in the New Orleans cotton press on the 11th ult., where a great amount of cotton was stored, and which was consumed. The number of bales of cotton destroyed is estimated at 8,500, the loss of which is estimated at \$40 per bale, would be \$340,000. The damage done to the building could possibly be repaired for \$25,000, and the machinery and two screws for \$10,000 more, making the total loss, as far as can be estimated by a rough calculation, \$375,000, which is fully covered by insurance in the city of New Orleans, in London and Paris. The building was considered the largest in the world.

It fronts upon the Mississippi and on Roffignac and New Levee streets, and is 362 feet in front, by 308 in breadth. It was built by an incorporated company at a cost of \$768,000, and is capable of storing thirty thousand bales of cotton. It has been for some years leased to Messrs. Freeland and Beahan, at the rate of \$25,000 per annum.

A BRISK LITTLE PLACE.—In giving an account of a lively little town out West, it is said that in one day they recently had two street fights, lung a man, rode three out of town on a rail, got a quarter race, a turkey shooting, a grand pulling, a match dog fight, had preaching by a Methodist circuit rider, who afterwards ran a foot-race for drinks "all round;" and as if this was not enough, the judge of the court, after losing a year's salary at single-handed poker, and whipping a person who said he did not understand the game, went out and helped to lynch a man for hog-stealing.

Equivalent of Various Plants to Hay, &c. We find the following table of equivalents in Smith's translation of Burgher's Economy of Farming.

100 lbs. of good hay are equal to 90 lbs. of clover hay, made when fully blossomed.

95 lbs. of do. made before it blossoms. 98 of do. second crop. 98 lucerne hay. 98 sunflower do. 410 green clover. 467 vetches or tares, green. 275 green Indian corn. 374 wheat straw. 214 rye straw. 164 oat straw. 153 pea stalk. 201 raw potatoes. 176 boiled do. 339 mangel wurtzel. 504 English turnips. 276 carrots. 308 ruta bags. 54 rye (grain of) 46 wheat, do. 59 oats, do. 64 buckwheat, do. 67 Indian corn, do. 45 peas. 55 beans. 60 horse chestnuts. 68 acorns. 62 sunflower seed. 69 linseed cake. 105 wheat bran. 109 rye bran. 167 wheat and oat chaff. 179 rye and barley chaff.

An ox requires 2 per cent. of his live weight in hay, per day; if he works, 1-2 per cent. A milch cow, three per cent.—A fattening ox, 5 per cent. at first, 4 per cent. when half fat and afterwards. 3 sheep, when grown, 3-2 per cent. of their live weight, in hay, per day.