# Eastern Shore General Advertiser.

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**Terms of the Star**

ARE TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS per annum, payable half yearly IN ADVANCE: No paper can be discontinued until the same is paid for.—

ADVERTISEMENTS,

ARE inserted *three weeks* for ONE DOLLAR, and continued *weekly*, for TWENTY-FIVE CENTS per square.


The following lucid and conclusive statement is extracted from the Aurora. Never has atrocious calumny received a more overwhelming refutation.

## FROM THE AURORA.

*Paris, 18th September*, 1809.

Sir,

On looking over the files of some American journals, (brought by the Wasp sloop of war), I find that several charges have been publicly made and circulated against the minister of the U. States (gen. Armstrong,) by certain sea-faring men, which, being to my knowledge utterly destitute of truth, require from me some degree of notice.

1st. A person by the name of Hopkins is made to assert that, *gen. Armstrong refused to give him a passport, unless he (Hopkins) should previously pay therefor, ten or twelve francs, and that the general gave an order to this effect to his secretary in the presence of Hopkins.* On this subject I offer the following deposition, viz:

Having been secretary to gen. Armstrong at the time Hopkins was in Paris, and having been specially charged by him with the giving of passports, I do solemn swear on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that no such order in relation to Hopkins, or any other person, ever was given to me by the said minister; and farther, that the rule prescribed by him and observed by me, in *all cases*, was to give *passports* and *other official acts gratis*.

DAVID BAILIE WARDEN.

Sworn and subscribed before me, Consul of the U. States for the district of Antwerp, this 18th day of September, 1809.

J. RIDGWAY.

The aforesaid Hopkins is also made to declare (on the authority of captain William Nichols) that, *when he (Nichols) called on the minister to inform him that Capt. Waterman, whose ship had been burnt at sea, was near Paris and on his way to Arras prison that the general refused to interfere for, or in any way to assist, the said Waterman.*

Had Mr. Nichols made this assertion, there would be no difficulty in shewing it to be a most wicked and impudent falsehood (as will be seen hereafter) but the original letter from Nicols written to a friend at Paris, and which I send herewith, will prove, that his name has been employed on this occasion in a way equally remote from his wishes and from the truth.

(EXTRACT.)

*Amsterdam, July* 5, 1809.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 8th and 29th of June, have come to hand. I was very much surprised that Hopkins should take the liberty of making use of my name. I don't remember of having any conversation with Hopkins concerning gen. Armstrong. If I had, I am confident I said nothing disrespectful of his excellency. There is no American that has taken part in favor of the general more than I have. Hopkins I knew protested against Gen. Armstrong before he left Paris. *Palmer* I do not know.

(Signed) WM. NICOLS.

2d. John Wyle, mate of the *two Brothers*, in a letter addressed to Messrs. Hathaway and Russel, merchants of New York, and dated the 18th April, 1809, says, that *he and others having been made prisoners at Charente, were marched to Arras; and that he frequently applied to general Armstrong for relief, but that he would not even answer their letters.*

3d. Isaac Doolittle, mate of the *ship Neptune*, of Portland, Massachusetts, and who like *Wyle*, had been arrested at Charente, & marched to Arras, in a letter published by Coleman, in his Evening Post of August the 9th, complains in nearly the same style with Wyle; but admits that gen. Armstrong *did answer his first letter.*

These papers, if genuine, exhibit the very worst side of human nature; falsehood and hypocrisy; and in support of this opinion, I send you the letters enclosed and marked, No. 1, 2, and 3. No, 1, is the joint letter of Doolittle, Wyle, Taubman, and Co[illegible] No. 2, is the separate letter of Wyle, and No. 3 is the private letter of Doolittle to his father and mother; which, after using, you will be good enough to forward to New-Haven.

(No. I.)

*Arras, September* 10, 1809.

GEN. ARMSTRONG—

Sir,

We received your esteem favor of the 1st, and beg leave to communicate to you our most sincere thanks for your kind interposition in our behalf, which we cannot but hope will have the desired effect. The departure of the last detachment from this depot, is fortunately postponed until further orders, which we hope will be a sufficient length of time for your excellency's application to meet a decision.*

Mr. Hamilton Smith, late mate of the American ship Nancy, who was brought here as a prisoner on the evening of the 9th ult. finding nothing but a long march and hunger before his eyes, has entered for a privateer and left this depot yesterday; whether he has been too hasty or not, your excellency will be the best judge.

According to your excellency's offer, we send the enclosed to be forwarded to America, begging you will do us the honor to believe that we feel sentiments of thankfulness which we cannot express.

(Signed) ISAAC DOOLITTLE,
JOHN WYLE,
JOHN TAUBMAN,
THOS. COPPING.

(No. II.)

*(same date.)*

SIR—I return you my sincere thanks for the kind attentions you have paid to me and the rest of my countrymen in our great extremity—I being fully convinced that your excellency was well disposed to do what lay in your power to obtain my liberty when opportunity offered; I have communicated all this to my friends, by letters under care of Mr. and Mrs. Cobb, who left here for the United States. They informed me that they would deliver the letters themselves, which I have no doubt but they will, therefore I think a repetition of the same grievances would be wearrisome to them. Therefore, I defer writing, hoping through your excellency's solicitations, to have a personal interview with them in a short time, which will produce the long wished for moment, that is a happy sight of my friends and country, where slavery and oppression do not exist, after two years absence, the first time was spent embargoed in Holland, the latter part a captive in France.

(Signed) JOHN WYLE.

(No. III.)

*Arras, Sept.* 13, 1809.

Dear Parents.—His excellency general Armstrong, (who has kindly offered to forward this) has made application for our release, which I doubt not would have been granted long before this, had it not been for the convulsed state of Holland, and indeed all Europe, for a few months past; but I hope this political squall will soon blow over, and we be blest with a moderate breeze to drive us out of this country. His excellency has also offered to become responsible to the minister at war for our good conduct, in order to obtain for us some privileges, which we could not otherwise enjoy, & should we be base enough to abuse the confidence placed in us, I hope we may be branded with a name more infamous than Arnold, be punished with a confinement more rigorous than baron Trenk, and be no longer considered as Americans.

(Signed) ISAAC DOOLITTLE, Jr.

Will Mr. Coleman say, after reading these letters, that general Armstrong has treated these men with harshness, contempt, or inhumanity? The fact is just the reverse. To them in particular, he has rendered all the service in his power—having done every thing for them, but give them public money; and having even become responsible for them to the French government. And why, Mr. Coleman may ask, refuse to give them public money also? For the best reason in the world—because the laws of his country did not permit him to do so. If these men came under the legal description of *distressed seamen*, their wants were to be supplied by some consular agent: if they did not, the minister could not pay money appropriated to an object other and different from that prescribed by law; and that these men did not come under this description, is as evident as noonday. This leads me to shew, what both these letter writers have omitted in the history of their wrongs, viz. that they were confined not as prisoners of war, but as *persons convicted of being engaged in an illicit trade.* To put this matter beyond the reach of Coleman, I offer the following extracts from the judicial proceedings of the council of prizes:

EXTRACTS.

The American ship Two Brothers, seized at Charante, the 14th October, 1808, on the denunciation of two of the crew, who declared, that she had come from Yarmouth in England.—Five others of the sailors afterwards confirmed this declaration.

Sentence of the council 21st June, 1809:—That whereas, the capt.—— Gardinear, and second captain, or mate, J. Wyle, have made a false declaration on entry at the custom house—The said captain and mate, &c. are sentenced to pay to the state the fine of 7000 francs, and to be imprisoned till this fine is paid.

*Ship Neptune, of Portland, &c.*

Sentence of the council:—That the captain mate and crew, having made a false declaration, as aforesaid, be condemned to pay to the state, a fine of 12,000 francs, and remain in prison till the fine is paid.

Conformable to the original minute.

DAVID BAILIE WARDEN,
Consul and agent of prize causes.

*Paris, 19th Sept.* 1809.

*(To be continued.)*

* This decision was favorable.

## Legislature of Maryland.

*HOUSE OF DELEGATES.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14.

Mr. Spencer from Queen-Ann's introduced an order to the following effect:

*Ordered*, That the sergeant be directed to furnish each member of the Legislature with such news-paper, *printed in this city*, as the member may direct.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, of Frederick, moved to strike out the words in italic, so as to render the order more general. But was opposed by Mr. Spencer and others, on the principle that the object contemplated by the order, was, the more general dissemination of the proceedings of the Legislature while in session, among their constituents.—[A debate of some length ensued; but not considering it of *general* importance, we neglected to note it.]

The amendment was *not* carried.

Mr. Bland presented a bill for increasing the salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer of Baltimore county; which was read a first time.

The committee on the part of the house, appointed to count and strike the ballots on the joint vote, for the election of the Governor's council for the ensuing year, reported,

*(As published in the Star.)*

A message was then sent to the Senate, informing that body that the house was "ready to proceed to the choice of a Senator for the State of Maryland, to the Congress of the United States," and that they had nominated Samuel Smith and ——, as suitable candidates, &c.

On which Colonel Stewart said—I rise sir, to do justice to my own feelings, and to the revolutionary services of a veteran soldier in the grand struggle for our independence, by moving that the second blank be filled with the name of *John Eager Howard.* This gentleman's private and public character is indisputable, and will bear the most scrupulous investigation. There have been serious charges adduced against Gen. Smith, which, in my opinion, have never been satisfactorily refuted. Under these impressions I would give a decided preference to Col. Howard, as a gentleman of more political rectitude and integrity than Gen. Smsth.

The blank was then filled with the name of John Eager Howard; and Messrs. Spencer and Gale appointed a committee of election, to join such gentlemen as the Senate may appoint for that purpose.

The committee on the part of the House reported, that, in conjunction with the gentlemen appointed on the part of the Senate, they had duly received and counted the ballots; the result of which was,

*(As published in the Star.)*

On the annunciation, by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, that Samuel Smith, Esq. of Baltimore, was duly elected Senator for the State of Maryland in the Senate of the United States, the House adjourned.

*Wednesday, November* 15.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying a road near the Pennsylvania line; and a petition counter to the same, were read and referred.

A bill to affix the mode of choosing Senators to represent this State in the Senate of the United States, was read. [The mode of election in future is to be by *joint ballot* of both Houses.]

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Cecil county, praying that the Legislature will pass a law to lay off, and make a turnpike road from French-town to the Delaware line, was read and referred.

After the transaction of some business of minor importance, and some desultory conversation, the House adjourned at an early hour.

*Thursday, November* 16.

A call of the house was required in order to a second reading of the bill to prevent foreigners from effecting insurance in this state—but, on motion, it was made the order of the day for Friday next.

The bill relative to Judicial Proceedings, was made the order of the day for Wednesday.

Mr. Tabbs, after a most eloquent, pathetic, and pointed address to the patriotism, humanity and generosity of the House, presented a petition from Edward Spurrier, a decripid orphan of the age of 16, son of a deceased revolutionary officer, "*who could leave naught to his child but poverty, disease and decrepitude.*"—The petition stated, that the last pecuniary assistance which the petitioner had received, was, through respect to the revolutionary services of his late father, from the society of Cincinnati, which supplies were now entirely exhausted—that it was considered by many that he possessed talents to acquire a liberal education, by which the defects of his person might be obviated, and render him useful to society at a more mature age, and praying legislative assistance to that effect. Referred to Messrs. Tabbs, Brent and Spencer.

Mr. Archer moved leave to bring in a bill for the repeal of the 5th section of the act confirming titles to land, taken for the use of certain churches and chapels, in this state. [Mr. Archer stated to the House, that a law exists in Maryland, by which certain vestries might take up any quantity of land, not exceeding two acres, for the purpose of building a church thereon, and to affix their own price to it, regardless of its value to the right owner. "This law, Sir," said Mr. Archer, "was enacted in the days of darkness and oppression, but at this age it behoves this legislature to give the most certain security to its constituents, of an undisturbed and quiet possession of their property, that it may not be wrested from them without their consent, unjustified by laws of a free government."] Leave granted.

On motion of Mr. Worthington, Saturday next was appointed for the second reading of the bill to increase the salary of the Chief Judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, of Baltimore county.

The clerk read a bill, entitled "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled an act, for the recovery of small debts out of court," and to repeal, &c. [This bill provides, that the magistrate before whom a judgment is taken, shall *alone* issue execution thereon; provided such magistrate resides within the county; that the defendant, any time within sixty days after the obtainment of any judgment against him, may supercede the same for one year.

A bill declaring the issue of slaves, who by will or testament, may have been manumitted, to be considered and held as slaves, unless otherwise expressed in the deed of manumission, was read a first time.

Mr. Worthington presented a petition from the Society of Friends, of Baltimore, praying legislative interference to prevent illegal traffic in people of color.

The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Vatchell Bargiss, a revolutionary officer, reported favorable to the same: and that in their opinion, after a due investigation of the accompanying documents, the petitioner is entitled to receive a sum equal to the full four years pay of a Captain, in the revolutionary war.

Mr. Archer, from the Committee, presented a bill repealing the 5th section of a law of this state confirming titles of land taken by churches, vestries, &c. which underwent a first reading.

On motion of J. H. Thomas, *Ordered*, That the Council be requested to lay before this House, a copy of their Journals of the proceedings of the last year.

On motion of Mr. J. H. Thomas, the clerk read An Act confirming An Act passed the 27th June last, to alter so much of the 32d and 37th section of the Constitution of this State as relate to the future election of Governor, on the event of the death, removal, or resignation of such officer before the expiration of the term of his election.

On motion, the House adjourned.

*Friday, November* 17.

An Act to incorporate a company to build a bridge over the Susquehanna, at Havre-de-Grace, was read.

Mr. Dorsey, asked, and obtained leave to bring in a bill to alter such parts of the charter of the city of Annapolis as permit such citizens as hold 50 acres, of land to vote at the county polls.

Mr. Dorsey withdrew his first motion, and substituted the following request, "That leave be given to bring in a bill to alter and abolish such parts of of the Constitution, as enable certain citizens of Annapolis, to vote for delegates of Anne-Arundel County." Adjourned.

*Saturday, November* 18.

Leave given to bring in a bill regulating the mode of issuing executions.

The bill relating to the descents of such slaves as are to be manumited at a certain period, was made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Leave given to bring in a bill supplementary to the act for the better regulation of apprentices.

An Act for the relief of William Hall, an insolvent debtor of Baltimore, was read a first time. [This bill gives the Judges of Baltimore County Court, the same powers of releasing the petitioner under the insolvent law, as if he had resided in the State for two years.]

Leave being granted, Mr. J. H. Thomas presented a bill confirming the acts of such Justices of the peace of this State, as hold, or have held, offices under the government of the United States.

An Act divorcing Thomas Burk, and Elizabeth Burk, underwent a first reading.

An Act making provision for the education and support of Edward Spurrier, son of capt. Spurrier deceased, was read a first time. *(This bill very honorable to the feelings, patriotism and gratitude of the Legislature, proposes that the Governor for the time being, shall be his guardian, and treat him in every respect as the adopted child of the State.)*

At 12 o'clock the House adjourned.

*Monday, November* 20.

The Clerk read certain communications from the Treasurer of the Eastern Shore, stating the expenses of the last year to the 30th ult. Referred to a committee.

A memorial of David Stuart and David C. Stuart, agents of the London Phœnix Insurance Company, praying the law preventing foreigners from affecting insurance in this state, may not pass, was read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Bland, the bill respecting crimes and punishments, was made the order of the day for Tuesday fortnight.

"A further supplement to an act for the better regulation of apprentices," was read a first time.

The bill annulling the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth Burk, of Frederick county, was read a second time; on which

The clerk read a petition from Elizabeth Burk, stating that Thomas Burk, her husband had been found guilty of commiting a rape, and, after receiving sentence of death, had broken the jail of Washington county, and made his escape therefrom, to some place unknown—the petitioner appealed to the humanity of the house for relief from a situation so peculiar and distressing.—The bill passed.

Mr. Archer presented an Act entitled an act, to abolish all such parts of the Constitution and form of Govern- of this State, as lay an equal tax, for the support of the Christian religion, which was read.

General Wynder, of Sommerset, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

A further supplement to an Act entitled an act, regulating the standard of weights and measures in this State, was read a first time. [This act declares the standard, as now fixed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City, to be the standard of weights and measures throughout the State.] The house then adjourned.