Maryland Legislature.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

Annapolis, Feb. 19, 1845.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

On motion of Mr. Patterson, leave was granted the Montgomery county delegation, to bring in a bill to fix the compensation of the clerk of the commissioners of Montgomery county.

A Bill relating to executors and administrators; a bill relating to the inspection of flour; a bill to authorise the payment to collectors of commissions on the State tax; a bill to create a board of public works; a bill to incorporate the Chesapeake and Liberia Trading Company; a bill to provide for the payment of an income tax by officers of incorporated companies; and a bill to prohibit negro camp meetings, were severally reported and laid on the table.

Leave was granted by the House to report a bill relating to the fees of the several Registers and Clerks in this State; to report a bill supplemental to the act relating to liens of mechanics on buildings, &c.; to report a bill repealing the several acts changing the rates of toll on the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road—which leaves were severally appropriately referred.

February 20, 1845.

This day has been assiduously devoted to business by the House. From the hour of meeting to 12 M. scarce a moment passed that either the Speaker or Clerk was not announcing the current of petitions, leaves and bills reported.

Mr. Clarke obtained leave to report a bill relating to the publication of the rules of the several Courts of this State, and the several supplements thereto.

Among the petitions received was one from Cecil County, presented by Mr. Harris, asking the Legislature to pass an act, laying a tax on the voters of this State.

Mr. Gallagher laid before the House a memorial of one hundred and five mercantile firms of the city of Baltimore, against the passage of the bill laying a tax on promissory notes, and other instruments of writing.

Mr. Clarke presented petitions from citizens of Washington County, praying that the Courts of Appeals may be held at Baltimore.

Mr. Worthington offered a preamble and order to the House, in relation to the delinquency of some of the counties, and the difficulty of collecting taxes therein; and directing the committee on ways and means to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill based upon the main suggestions contained in said preamble.

Mr. Calvert submitted to the House the act passed by the State of Delaware entitled "an act for the protection of the Government of that State in the loan of money to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Rail Road Company, and for settling any difficulty between said company and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company," with an order which was adopted, that it be submitted to a committee of five to inquire into the effects of said bill upon the interests of the State of Maryland, and whether the agreements authorised by that act are not prejudicial to the interests and rights of Maryland.

The consideration of the Canal Bill was resumed at the usual hour. The question to strike out the enacting clause (although this cannot be taken as yet as to the fate of the bill, several gentlemen being willing to allow the bill to be perfected before the deciding vote should be taken.

Mr. Calvert again renewed his motion to strike out $2,000,000 as the amount of stock to be issued by the company, and insert $1,545,000. The question was divided and first taken on striking out, and determined in the affirmative. Several other amounts were then proposed to be inserted, and the vote taken each case on the largest, until it came down to $1,700,000; which was carried, their sale limited to par—the bill remains until to-morrow, what will be its fate, it is impossible to tell, for no vote yet taken can be called a test.

February 21, 1845.

A sparring took place in the House this morning, upon a leave asked by Mr. Freeman to report a bill so to alter the constitution as to require a concurrent vote of the two houses of the Legislatue to elect the Treasurer. The experience of the last few years has shown that the tenure of this most important office is entirely too unstable—and although the present system of appointing that officer may not as yet have given any serious inconvenience to the State, it is yet peculiarly liable to abuse, and should have applied an early preventive.

The leave was granted by a party vote, of 50 yeas to 17 nays.

Mr. Hollyday of [illegible] obtained leave, too, to report a bill to repeal an act passed by this Legislature a few days since, relating to the practice of the Court of Appeals and of the second Judicial District. Should this bill be reported and passed,—the enacting and the repealing law, will appear in the same volume.

Leave was granted to report a bill to oblige the registry of all negro passengers, in steamboats, sailboats, cars, and other conveyances in this State.

The House this evening disposed of the bill to provide for the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. On the question "shall the bill pass," the yeas and nays were called, and stood as follows:

YEAS—Ford of St. Mary's, Thomas, Hopewell, Spencer, Worthington of A. A., Tuck, Johnson of A. A., Kent, Freeman, Williams of Som., Sprigg of P. G. Bowie, Ford of Q. A., Shriver, Biser, Johnson of F., Poole, Buckey, Clarke, Boteler, Matter, Hart, Fletcher, Howard, Waters, Patterson, Kilgour, Neff, Sprigg of Alleghany, Hamill, Fitzpatrick, Raymond, Thompson—33

NAYS—Potter, Stewart, Hance, Morsell, Walker, Stansbury of Baltimore co. Randall and Worthington of Balt. co., Ware, Harrington, Bowdell, Long, Phillips, Langford, Muse, Frazier, Keene, Bouchell, Holliday of Cecil, Maffitt, Harris, Calvert, Ghiselin, Henry, Purnell, Lamden, Fooks, Polk, Archer, Amos, Yellott, McKnett, Jump, Stansbury of Baltimore city, Springer, Graves, Gallagher, Rogers—41.

So the bill was rejected. Mr. Ghiselin, of Prince George's, gave notice that he should move a reconsideration on Monday.

The House then adjoured over till Monday.

MR. LETSON'S MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable
the General Assembly of Maryland:

The memorial of Thos. W. Letson, of the State of New York, respectfully represents.

That on or about the 13th day of July, in the year 1843, your memorialist, in company with a certain John Rutter and other partners, whose names are not recited in the instrument, entered into a contract with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal company, for the construction of the canal above dam No. 6, upon terms which are particularly set forth in the contract itself, a copy of which contract your memorialist hereto appends, and prays that it may be taken as part of this memorial.

That accordingly your memorialist, as soon thereafter as possible, entered upon the work of constructing the said canal, under the directions of the Chief Engineer of the company, and was prosecuting the same faithfully, according to the said directions and the stipulations of the said contract which, among other things, required an advance of funds on the contractor's part of a large sum of money, viz: "one hundred thousand dollars."

That your memorialist also, toward the farther prosecution of the work, entered into contracts with various parties, citizens of the State of Maryland, and of other States of the Union, for the supply of materials and labor necessary in the construction of the said canal, according to the tenor of his contract with said company, to a very large amount; that your memorialist, after having been at work for about one month under the directions of the Engineer aforesaid, received a letter from the Engineer, informing him to his great surprise, that no more work would be laid out for your memorialist to execute.

And your memorialist in consequence, during the week next following, found himself, in the absence of any plans, specifications, or instructions how to proceed with his work, compelled to abandon the same, as your memorialist therefore did under written protest.

Your memorialist represents that all these actings and doings of the said engineer, or of the President or Directors of the Company who controlled the engineer, are in direct violation of a solemn contract entered into with the Company, and to the great damage and loss to your memorialist of time and money.

Your memorialist does not approach your honorable body with any application for specific relief in the premises; he is aware that the existing laws are sufficient to protect him when due occasion offers for such resort. But as your honorable body has now before you an application from the said Company for aid from this State, to enable them to do what they refused, nearly two years ago, to allow your memorialist, without such aid, to proceed with, your memorialist thinks it due to your honorable body to furnish this representation of the facts.

Your memorialist is and will be at all times ready to substantiate the facts aforesaid in any inquiry that your honorable body may see fit to institute upon the premises.

And your memorialist, as in duty bound will ever pray,

THOMAS W. LETSON.

The influx of Jews to the Holy Land has been very great of late. There is no more room in Jerusalem for them; they have already spread over a part of the Turkish quarter. Jaffa has been selected by them for the establishment of a Joshiba, and several Rabbis have been appointed for that purpose. Many new comers have settled at Jaffa and all along the coast.

COURT OF APPEALS, W. S., Feb. 21, 1845.—No. 19, Richard Waters, et. al. vs. the State of Maryland — Archer Judge, delivered the opinion of the Court—judgment reversed.

THE JOURNAL.

ROCKVILLE, MD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, '45.

☞ Every government is troubled with a certain class of politicians, possessed of that restless ambition which is constantly stirring up one part of mankind against another. Personal or party aggrandizement is the great object to which these misguided spirits aspire; and this they pursue even to the involvement of their own government in confusion and disorder. For confirmation of this sentiment, we need not refer to events that have transpired in other countries—at other times. Unfortunately for the American people, the developments of the last few years furnish unquestionable evidences of the prevalence of this spirit among some of those who have been entrusted with the highest executive and legislative functions of government.

Its manifestations, at the beginning, were so palpable that the friends of political integrity and of the constitution were greatly shocked, and simultaneously sounded the trumpet of alarm throughout the land. The mask which was designed to conceal this spirit from the public view was indignantly withdrawn, and selfishness, national dishonor, and disgrace stood forth in bold relief.

It would seem, however, that the patriotic denunciations thundered against the exhibition of this execrable spirit, instead of restraining, have only served to exasperate and render it more daring in the prosecution of its object. Remonstrances from those who cherish a sacred regard for the dignity and untarnished faith of the republic, have been treated with contempt. Whenever the consequences, which would be likely to result from the consummation of its object, have been pointed out, it has not only defied, but also professed to court them. It has now nearly satisfied its unhallowed cravings. It has made a desperate effort, in two different instances, to prevail upon our national legislature to pander to its ravenous appetite. So boundless are its desires, that not only the weak, but also the strong, must minister to its gratification.

It talks of war, as if it were a desirable thing. Its horrors are converted into charms, by the prospect which unfolds itself to its distempered vision. Carnage, desolation and all the usual concomitants of war, are incalculable blessings when they are suffered for the acquisition of territory, to enlarge the sphere of its operations. No matter how much other governments are outraged—whose rights are encroached upon; no matter how many treaties are violated; no matter how trifling the advantage to be derived from the acquisition, it must be effected, (if for no other purpose) to produce dissensions among ourselves, which those spirits hope to turn to their own emolument.

There is one lesson of rational and sober policy, which, if it were possible to instil into the minds of these politicians, would do much towards allaying the unhappy spirit by which they are actuated. If they would consider that it is more glorious, and more worthy of their emulation, to endeavor to increase the happiness of those who are included within the present territory, than to desire an extension of that territory, they would learn a lesson which would qualify them for usefulness to their fellow-citizens, and impart to their own minds a consciousness of having faithfully discharged their duty. The enlargement of territory is not desirable, when it adds little or nothing to the enjoyments and security of the country enlarged. A nation commonly gains, by annexing other dependencies, a more extensive frontier to defend—more jarring claims to vindicate—more quarrels to adjust—more enemies to encounter—more services to provide for, and, consequently, more expenses to incur.

Our thanks are due to the Hon. A. Duncan, M. C., of Ohio, for a copy of his speech on the Oregon bill.

LOOK OUT.—Counterfeit $10 notes on the Bank of Virginia, at Richmond, are in circulation in Philadelphia. The engraving is very coarse.

☞ The session of the present Legislature is rapidly drawing to a close; and, although several things called for, by the present exigencies of the State, have been attended to, there are other matters which the people expect it to take into consideration before its final adjournment. Among these, the devisement of some plan for the prevention of fraudulent voting at our elections, is not the least important.

That it is incumbent upon the present Legislature to provide against the future abuse of the elective franchise in Maryland, the frauds upon the ballot-box, at our late State election, leave little room to doubt. We are satisfied that the system of frauds carried on at that time, was the most extensive and corrupt that was ever resorted to by any party in any State. In every quarter of the State, the purity of the ballot-box was shamefully violated, for the purpose of defeating the choice of a majority of the people of Maryland, in the selection of their State functionaries. So deeply was the plot laid in one of our cities, that had it not been for a miscalculation upon one or two counties, it would have succeeded.

There is nothing which more effectually weakens the bonds of an elective government, than the unrestrained practice of frauds upon the fountain of delegated authority. When individuals (we care not to what party they belong) who have no right to this privilege, usurp it—or, those entitled to it, illegally exercise it, by casting several ballots, the equality of power is destroyed, and the more honest and conscientious citizens are left at the mercy of the desperate and unscrupulous. Unless something is speedily done to put an end to this practice, it will be carried on hereafter upon a more enlarged scale; and, in the end, prove destructive of all the benefits to be derived from popular elections, by leaving them under the control of daring and lawless partizans. It is therefore to be hoped that the Legislature will either make provision for a general registry of all the voters in the State, or pass a law which will make fraudulent voting a penitentiary offence.

AFFRAY IN GEORGETOWN.—Three police officers of Georgetown, D. C. named Barnaclo, Adams and Poston, met with a desperate resistance in Washington, on Wednesday night, while arresting a runaway slave of Mr. Lawrence Morton of the former place. The officers, it appears, repaired to the house of a negro female, in the northern suburbs of Washington, on the night in question, where they found the runaway, who being an athletic fellow, assailed them with an axe, while the occupants of the house aided him by attacking the officers and endangering their lives, with bludgeons and spades. The runaway, however, notwithstanding the violent resistance made, was secured, but not before Mr. Barnaclo received a severe cut over the eye from a blow.

LATER FROM TEXAS.—Slips received by Government express from New Orleans exchanges, contain dates from Galveston to the 9th inst. The Texan Congress adjourned on the 3d, having previously rejected the nominations of Col. Reilly as Charge d'Affaires to the United States, and of Gen. Terrel to England and France, principally, it is alleged, because they were opposed to annexation, a measure upon which much anxiety is expressed.

THOMAS W. DORR.—The Providence Transcript says the Supreme Court have granted the writ of error prayed for in the petition of Thomas W. Dorr. The Governor and Attorney General have been cited, in behalf of the State, to appear on the first Monday of December next, to hear the question argued.

"The effect of this will be merely to try the question whether the Constitution and laws of the United States have been violated by the action of this State, in the trial of Dorr for treason. It will not be regretted by any one that the Supreme Court are to hear and determine this matter. Whatever may be their decision, Rhode Island will abide by it.—We fear not the result."

CUMBERLAND CIVILIAN. — This old and well conducted whig journal has been purchased by Messrs. Price & McCully, by whom it will hereafter be conducted.

TERRIBLE DISASTER—SEVEN LIVES LOST.—On Saturday, the 8th inst., the steamboat Pathfinder, when near Grand Gulf, Miss., was discovered to be on fire. Immediately there ensued a scene of confusion and dismay which may be more easily imagined than described.—The pilot was forced to leave the wheel by the smoke, which nearly suffocated him after he had steered the bow of the boat for the shore. The engineer was also forced to leave his post before any movement of the boat towards the shore could be made, and when the flames raged fiercest the bow of the boat was pointed up stream.

Several of the crew commenced throwing cotton bales overboard, and many saved themselves on the bales, and others on planks, chairs, &c.

There were seven lives lost, that are known of, and doubtless others that the officers or crew do not miss. Those known to be lost are—Messrs. S. S. Caldwell, Huggins, and Butler, of Grenada, Miss.; Mr. Carleton, of Tallahatchie; Mr. Pinchback, of Illinois; the steward of the boat, and one of the crew, names unknown.

Mrs. Fleming, wife of one of the pilots, the only female on board, except the chambermaid and a colored woman, was saved in one of the yawls, with many others.

The fire originated between the engines—from what cause is not known.

The whole cargo, 1481 bales of cotton is a loss, the catastrophe having taken place near the middle of the river.

The crew and surviving passengers were brought to Natchez by the steamer Wave.

Extract from a Letter from a gentleman in Washington to another in this city, dated

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1845.

The Texas Resolutions *will pass* the Senate. Mr. Merrick, it is believed, will vote for them. Within a few days the impression is very strong that the Joint Resolutions, as they passed the House, will pass the Senate. The consequence of the measure will, in my opinion, bring on a war with England, and that before many months. I do not pretend to more sagacity than other people, but such is not only my fear, but my belief. The consequences are too awful to contemplate for our country—entirely unprepared, as it is, for such an unlooked for state of things. The message, from the President, in answer to Mr. Tappan's resolutions, which you will see in the Intelligencer, may be thus given to accelerate the passage of the Texas resolutions through the Senate. It is generally understood that Mr. Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, will go into the State Department; Col. Butler, of Kentucky, into the War Department. I should think it probable that in the "pell mell" of a closing session, the Post Office bill would be lost.—*Balt. Amer.*

GOV. PRATT'S APPOINTMENTS.—The Annapolis Herald says, the Governor has nearly completed his task of making nominations to the Senate. The nominations heretofore announced by us have been confirmed by the Senate, with the exception of J. H. Jamar, Esq., nominated as Register of Wills for Cecil county, who has been rejected by that body Senator Howard, we understand, is an applicant. The nomination of Alexander Gould, jr. as State Wharfinger, has not yet been acted upon; nor has the Governor nominated a successor to Judge Semmes. Judge Semmes is at present in this city, and madam rumor says that the Governor intends to re-nominate him to the Senate.—*Clipper.*

BOSTON MAYORALTY.—The citizens of Boston had another trial on Friday for the election of Mayor, which resulted in the choice of Thos. A. Davis, the native candidate. The Democrats resolved, on Thursday evening, not to present any candidate. Parker was the Whig candidate. The vote stood as follows:—

Parker, whig	4,376
Davis, native	4,872
Scattering	325
Total,	9,573
Davis's majority	171

SUPPOSED MURDER OF A WIFE—The Troy (N. Y.) Whig says that an inquest was about to be held in Berlin, on the body of Mrs. Green, of that place, supposed to have been poisoned by her husband, Henry G. Green. The circumstances, as related, are as follows:—The parties had been married about a week. Mrs. Green was unwell; and told the woman who attended her that she feared her husband had poisoned her, as she had seen him putting a white powder into her tea. On being questioned by her as to what it was, he replied that it was flour. She drank the tea and died soon after. Green was seen, previous to the death of his wife, taking down a bottle of arsenic from the drugs in a store in Berlin. Mrs. Green was from Thornton, N. H. Her maiden name was Mary Ann Wyatt.

NEW YORK MAYORALTY.—The whigs have brought out the Hon. Dudley Seldon as their candidate for the mayoralty, and he has accepted the nomination.

Local Intelligence.

☞ Our village presented quite a lively scene on Saturday last, being the anniversary of the birth day of the Father of his country. The "Rockville Union Lyceum" celebrated the day in an appropriate manner, at the Court-house. O. C. Wight, Esq., the worthy President of the Lyceum, read the farewell address of WASHINGTON; after which a short oration was delivered by Wm. P. Braddock, Esq. Subject—"The life and character of WASHINGTON." The "Montgomery Volunteers" were present upon the occasion, and added much to the brilliancy of the scene. At intervals the meeting was enlivened by the performance of suitable "national airs" by the Band. When the meeting adjourned, the Volunteers formed into line on the Court-house green, and fired thirteen rounds in honor of the day.

☞ Within the past week several lectures upon the mysterious science of "Mesmerism," have been delivered to citizens of our village, by Dr. Massey, of Alexandria. Those lectures have been well attended, and appear to have given general satisfaction. The experiments made upon different individuals are said to have proved successful. The Doctor is still amongst us, experimenting upon some of our citizens, who are in an invalid state. He seems to be quite confident that he can effect cures by this remarkable process.

☞ We understand that NATHAN HOLLAND, Esq., Postmaster at this place, has sent his resignation to the Post Office Department. Mr. Holland was appointed in 1840; and the gentlemanly and obliging manner in which he discharged the duties of the office, won for him the confidence of the whole community. We hope that his successor may prove as accommodating.

☞ A youth of about 18 years of age, calling himself Thomas Tanner, was arrested in this County a few days since, upon suspicion of being concerned in the robbery of a boot and shoe store in the District of Columbia. He was committed to jail on Saturday evening last, and on Monday he was demanded of the Sheriff, by a couple of police officers from Washington. The Sheriff refused to deliver him without a requisition from the President upon the Governor.

[For the Journal.]

Mr. Editor: Permit me through your columns to call the attention of the public to the course of Lectures, proposed to be given by the Rockville Union Lyceum, during the winter and ensuing spring.

This laudable design of the Lyceum, certainly deserves the highest commendation, and the most liberal patronage, of all those who feel interested in intellectual cultivation; and I hope there is no one in this enlightened community, who would deny an interest in a subject so fraught with blessings of the most exalted kind to society.

Oral instructions, or that by lectures, has always been found to be much more effectual than any other, and is now extensively adopted in every part of our country; and they have proved so beneficial and interesting, that the lecture rooms of our large cities are now nightly filled with those, who, not many years ago, resorted to theatres, and worse places, to find amusement, and to while away their heavy hours.

Lectures are now read not only in colleges and other literary and scientific institutions, but in places where all who choose may hear and learn. Men of the most cultivated and enlarged minds engage in this business with ardor and zeal, as a means of profit and of fame; and so great have been the benefits derived from them, that we may deem their introduction a bright era in the onward march of intellectual cultivation.

Men should use every means that is presented to them of increasing their intelligence, and of enlarging and refining their minds; for it is through mind alone that any pure enjoyment can be obtained.

New England furnishes an example, which should urge us to increasing endeavors to spread intelligence among all classes of society. Her liberal institu-