

MARYLAND GAZETTE

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1812.

The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland is to assemble in Baltimore on Wednesday the 20th May next.

Mr. Hagerty, of Baltimore, has completed his elegant edition of the Bible, the first ever printed in this country on a diamond type, and challenges a comparison with any work of the kind extant.

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTION.

Table with 3 columns: Towns, Strong, Gerry. Federal Gain 4,825.

New-Hampshire Election.—The "Dartmouth Gazette" gives the final returns for Governor in New-Hampshire.

Table with 2 columns: Candidate, Votes. For Gilman (Fed.) 13,971; Plumer (Dem.) 13,428.

Federal Majority, 543

Whether Mr. Gilman, the federal candidate, is the Governor elect, will depend on the fact, whether there are as many as 543 scattering votes—a fact which will not be ascertained until the meeting of the Legislature.

To the Citizens of Maryland.

According to a supplement to the late militia law for the organization of the cavalry, under field officers, my being the oldest commissioned captain of cavalry in the state, and as senior officer agreeable to the language and intention of the law, (as well as in every other respect), I considered myself entitled to the proper promotion, agreeable to military system, but to my no little surprise, on the 13th of February last, I received a new commission as captain of cavalry, placing me in the same situation that I had been upwards of sixteen years. From this I perceived that the Governor and Council had made arbitrary partial appointments to suit particular friends. On the next day, the 14th February, I endorsed on the back of the commission, "Received and noted for non-acceptance," and returned it enclosed in a letter as per copy.

To His Excellency the Governor and Council. GENTLEMEN,

It was pretty generally known that I understood something of horsemanship, as well as something of the cavalry exercise. In the spring of 1794 I was solicited to assist in getting a troop of horse, and instead of taking advantage of the law, (being then upwards of 50 years of age), to avoid militia duty, as then was, and still is, pretty much the practice of pretended patriots, men in office, office hunters, and many others, I came forward; a troop was soon formed, and in uniform; and in June '94 the late Mr. J. Kilty, was appointed captain, and myself first lieutenant of the troop. The company was completely armed, organized, & fitted for active duty, in a few months. In September following, there was a sudden call on the militia; a draught took place; our troop volunteered their services, and immediately marched on the western expedition, under the command of Governor Lee, as commander in chief. In Nov. '95, on Captain Kilty's moving to Baltimore, he gave up his commission. I was then appointed captain of the troop, and so continued to the present time, always well prepared for duty at the shortest notice. In '98 or '9, (I believe it was,) a draught of the militia was ordered; I draughted my company and made a return thereof to the governor and council agreeable to orders. My commission bears date prior to any other that was of late a captain of the cavalry, which your records will shew. Standing thus, I consider myself entitled to promotion, and rank, agreeable to seniority, and military system, and if I mistake not, both the letter and spirit of the late law, respecting the appointing officers of cavalry, entitles me to the proper promotion, viz. "Provided, that the new commissions shall bear seniority by dates, number, or otherwise, that the old commissions bear at the present time." If you considered me as not a fit and proper person for promotion, you must at the same time have looked on me as an improper person to hold a commission; and that by appointing me a captain, (an officer that ought to be young & active,) you would get clear of me, and prepare the way for another favorite officer of the infantry, or otherwise I know not how to account for your appointing a junior captain of cavalry over me; and not only so, but more particularly to appoint a junior captain of the infantry over both a person that knows but little of horsemanship, and less of the cavalry exercise. Your having acted thus, you might as well have passed me by as being too old for active duty, instead of sending me a commission that you must have known I could not accept.

Be assured that after holding a commission near eighteen years, I would not, (at this time of life,) hold a commission under any junior officer in the state of Maryland. I ask no favours; but as an officer I must have my rank, or no commission. Since I had the honour of holding a commission I have been as well prepared for active duty, and as willing and ready to act in defence of my country as any officer in the state of Maryland. And if I had my rank, I should have so continued, as long I was able to mount a horse and wield my sword.

How far the interest of the state will be promoted by this mode of appointing officers, for getting up and organizing the cavalry, agreeable to the intention of the late law, is a question for others to determine.

Your most obedient servant, JAMES WILLIAMS.

February 14th, 1812.

The public will observe by this, and complaints of a similar nature from other officers, that by this

partial mode of appointing the officers of cavalry, the governor and council have acted contrary to law and justice towards many valuable officers, as well as to the great injury of the state, having already lost the use and benefit of several troops, equal to any in the state, and more in all probability will be lost.

The Executive not having deigned to take notice of these complaints, the complainants will have to apply to the next General Assembly for redress of grievances.

JAMES WILLIAMS. Annapolis, 14th April, 1812.

From the National Intelligencer—9th.

That an important crisis has arrived in the U. States is seen by every one: that it has been unavoidable is equally certain: and that it may be made to terminate with honour and advantage to Republican government, cannot admit of a doubt. We draw this conclusion from a firm belief that our councils will be wisely and honestly administered in every branch of the government and that the people still possess those virtues and energies which were so eminently displayed in our revolution.

The embargo now laid is a measure whose true character cannot be mistaken. It is not war, nor does it inevitably lead to war.— But if that result is avoided, however much to be regretted, it is evident that it can only be an honourable accommodation with the belligerents, on the various and grievous wrongs which this country has received from them.

Among the advantages to be derived from this measure are the following: It secures from pillage the vessels that are now in port, it warns the commanders of those who are abroad, to return home for safety; and it gives notice to foreign powers, that the period has arrived when the manifold wrongs which we have received from them must be redressed.

It would be dishonorable, and might be ruinous, if without a redress of our wrongs, war did not promptly follow the expiration of the embargo. No other alternative is left to our choice. Every other expedient has been tried, and failed. A new and more solemn position is now taken, which must be maintained. We cannot retrace our steps and abandon, perhaps forever, our most important rights. Nor can we rest longer at the point at which we now pause. We must, without a redress of wrongs, advance, and war is the next step. It would be folly in the extreme to attempt to disguise from ourselves the true character of the present embargo. It is not an engine to be wielded in negotiation. From the privations to which it may expose the belligerents nothing ought to be expected. It relied on in that sense only, it is known that it would fail. It is a measure of precaution, intended principally as a warning to our own people, of the nature of the crisis which has arrived, and of the consequences into which it may lead. If it produces any salutary effect with the belligerents or with either, it must be by announcing to them, that the United States disdaining longer to submit to dishonor, have resolved to accept the other alternative which they, by so many acts of injustice, have forced on them.

Great Britain took the lead in the career of violence and injustice. Every stage of the present war has been marked by some act which evinced the distinguished hostility of her government to this country. She has impressed our seamen from on board our own vessels, and held them in long and oppressive bondage. She has intercepted our lawful trade with nations with whom we were at peace. She has violated our jurisdiction; insulted us on our coast and in our harbours, & finally usurped the absolute dominion of the sea, forbidding our commerce with all nations with whom it does not suit her to allow it, and all-wing it to none with whom she is not herself permitted to trade. She has even set up the extravagant and unheard of pretension that we should become the fraudulent vehicles of her commerce, the carriers of her manufactures to the ports of her enemies, as the condition on which we should trade there at all. Had we submitted to these oppressions, we should have sunk into a more degraded state than that of her colonies. Deprived of the profits which belong to dependent possessions, our sovereignty would have served only to expose in a more striking light our humiliation and weakness.

France has exhibited, in her conduct towards neutral powers, the counterpart to this disgusting picture; she has been emulous, in misdeeds, of the renown of her great political compeer. If she has done less harm at sea, it was because her means were inferior to those of her rival. She declared the British islands and all the British dominions in a state of blockade, when she had not a single ship on the ocean: and whenever her cruizers could escape from her ports, their course has been marked with the desolation of our unprotected commerce. But for the want of power on the ocean, and the failure of that full measure of the waste of neutral trade which has characterized the conduct of Great Britain on that element, France has supplied the deficiency of her derds on the land. By her Rambouillet, Bayonne, and other decrees, she has seized and confiscated all the vessels of the United States and their cargoes that

were in port. Nor has her desolating policy been confined to the limits of France only; it has been felt wherever her influence has extended. Of this truth, Spain, Holland, Italy, &c. afford but too many examples.

If we look back to past events, we must be sensible that this crisis has been unavoidable. We should be blind to the evidence of the most striking and important facts, if we did not perceive and acknowledge this great truth. It has been forced upon us by the wrongs of the belligerents. It has been forced on us by the voice of the whole American people, who, deeply incensed at these wrongs, have called on their government for redress. When it is considered, that the sole alternative presented to us, has been, between a base submission to these wrongs, and a manly assertion of their rights, there is much cause for surprise that this issue was not sooner made up.

From the Salem Gazette of April 3. NORTH OF EUROPE.

On Wednesday the Plato arrived here in the short passage of 34 days from Gottenburg. On her arrival we had an immediate report, that Buonaparte had actually declared war against Russia, and quitted Paris for the North, to direct the military operations in person. We have since conversed with Mr. W. H. Prince, the supercargo, who informs us, that amongst the numerous reports in constant circulation at Gottenburg, this was brought thither by the last mail from Copenhagen. But though it was not received as a certainty, yet the whole system of military movements indicated that a campaign would commence with the opening of spring. French troops were continually passing for the north; and not less than 140,000 were said to be ready to act immediately against Russia, who was also employed in making preparations for her safety.

The well known cause of offence in Russia, is her relaxation in the continental system; and if Alexander will not engage to execute it in its full rigour, Buonaparte will set out to take lodgings in the imperial palace at Petersburg, as he has heretofore done at Berlin and Vienna. In this state of things, Alexander has discovered a solicitude to make peace with the Turks, which Buonaparte's intrigues have doubtless been employed to frustrate. The negotiations which followed the last great victory of the Russians were considered as brought to a close, and every thing was prepared in Petersburg for celebrating the event of peace, when suddenly it was found the Turks had receded from the treaty; on which Alexander sent out new commissioners, empowered it was said, to make peace at any rate. If this is effectual, his large armies of Turkey will be recalled to the defence of the empire: but in their route they will have to encounter the French, who are stationed as to dispute their passage. Whether Alexander will again hazard the empire upon another struggle against the power of France, whose means in the north seem to be greater than ever, or whether he will submit indefinitely to the requisitions of the ruler of the continent, we shall soon hear. Extensive and terrible as is the power of France, it is not Russia alone in the north that has ventured in some measure to act as an independent nation. The little kingdom of Sweden has never yet been brought fully into the continental system; and English as well as American commerce is permitted, under restrictions and licenses, and all Buonaparte's requisitions are not complied with. Some time since, on the French minister's making some unreasonable demand of Bernadotte, he tore up the papers and threw them in his face, and the minister immediately made off to Copenhagen. Bernadotte has recently given another instance of his independent spirit in regard to France. He apprehended that Buonaparte intended to take possession of Pomerania, in order to have a further controul of the southern coast of the Baltic; he therefore gave orders to his commander, if the French entered to retreat to the isle of Rugen, and fortify & defend it to the last extremity; but he failed in the execution of those orders; and Bernadotte immediately broke this general. Bernadotte is beloved by the Swedes; they believe he consults the interest of the country, as much as is in his power; and it is understood the old king is shortly to abdicate the throne and Bernadotte to be invested with the full powers of Royalty.

CONGRESSIONAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, April 2.

Mr. McKee, from the committee to whom was referred the amendments of the senate to the bill for the relief of the officers and soldiers who served in the late campaign on the Wabash, made a report, in which they recommend a non-concurrence with the amendments made by the senate to the first section of the bill, and an agreement with the remainder.

The amendments to the first section take away the extra allowance proposed to be granted to the regular troops and militia.

The house disagreed to the senate's first amendments and agreed to the others.

Mr. Nelson from the committee to whom was referred the resolution relative to the bounty lands to officers and soldiers of the Virginia line on state establishment, made a report which concluded with the following resolution:

Resolved, That provision should be made for securing both officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary army of Virginia on state establishment in the land or sea service of the said state, the bounty lands which were promised to them either by a law or resolution of the said commonwealth, out of the lands not otherwise appropriated, and lying North West of the River Ohio, within the Virginia cession, to be of good quality according to the true intent and meaning of the promises made on the part of Virginia; and that if a sufficiency of good land within the meaning aforesaid, cannot there be found, that these bounties shall be satisfied out of any other public land of the U. S. not heretofore otherwise appropriated.

Referred to a committee of the whole house and made the order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Grundy stated that in the absence of the chairman of the committee of foreign relations he was instructed by that committee to offer to the house some propositions for their consideration, and which were intended for the members only, he therefore moved that the galleries be cleared, which was accordingly done, and the doors closed, and remained closed till past 4 o'clock, when they adjourned.

Friday, April 3.

Mr. Gholson from the committee of claims reported a bill for the relief of Thomas F. Reddick, which was twice read and referred to the committee of the whole house.

Also the bill from the senate for the relief of Charles Minifie, without amendment. Referred to a committee of the whole house for Tuesday next.

Mr. Lewis from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill concerning certain powers on the Levy Court of the County of Washington. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole house for Monday next.

A message was received from the president of the U. S. returning the bill providing for the removal of causes from the District to the Circuit Courts in cases of disability of judges, with his constitutional objections to the same.

Mr. Bacon, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill for the relief of the collector of the port and district of Plymouth, N. Carolina. Read twice and referred to the committee of the whole house.

On motion of Mr. Porter, chairman of the committee of foreign relations, the galleries were cleared & doors closed at a quarter past 1 o'clock.

Saturday, April 4.

SECRET SESSION.

The doors of the house were closed this morning, immediately after the reading of the journal, and continued so till an adjournment took place. It was however declared, about half past one, that the injunction of secrecy was off with respect to all that related to the Embargo.

JOURNAL.—It appears that the President's message was short, recommending an embargo for sixty days, but giving no reasons, merely saying, "considering the present critical situation of the country, I recommend," &c. A bill was immediately introduced, read twice and referred to the committee of the whole. Mr. Bassett took the chair. Mr. Randolph, Mr. Mitchell, and others, opposed the bill. The Speaker and others supported it. Mr. Seybert wished to know whether it were a peace or war measure? Mr. Quincy said it is now evident that no war is intended. There were other speakers.

Mr. Boyd moved to substitute 120 for 60 days. Negatived.

Mr. Randolph was called to order by the Speaker, for reflecting on the house, in saying, "We have wasted five months in idle debate, of which I have myself had a full share," or words similar. The chairman, (Mr. Bassett) declared Mr. R. in order. Mr. Speaker appealed to the house. The house, by yeas and nays, confirmed the chairman's decision, by a small majority.

The bill passed; 70 to 41. In Senate it passed, 20 to 13, after being amended by 90 days, instead of 60; and another small amendment.

Yesterday morning it was returned to the house.

Mr. Lewis moved an indefinite postponement of the bill and amendments. Mr. Milnor seconded the motion, and spoke in support of it. Motion lost by a majority of about 30.

Mr. Randolph moved to postpone till Monday next. This motion was superceded by a motion of Mr. Emott to postpone 30 days. Mr. Emott spoke in support of his motion, dwelling on the great losses its immediate a-

deposition must occasion, especially as millions worth of produce descending and to descend the Hudson.

The previous question was called. A question arose whether this stop all debate & all amendment. The Speaker decided that it did. Mr. Key said he had an important amendment to propose. An appeal was had from the Speaker's decision. The house confirmed it; and the final question on agreeing to the principal amendment of the senate (90 for 60 days) was then taken by the yeas and noes; yeas 56, noes 53—all debate and amendment being refused by the call for the previous question.

Monday, April 6.

Mr. Bacon from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill suspending the payment of certain bills drawn by John Armstrong, late minister to France, upon the treasury of the United States, in favour of the cashier of the French treasury. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole house for Wednesday next. [The French government neglecting or refusing to pay a part of the Louisiana stock to satisfy American claims, occasions this bill.]

Mr. Wheaton and Mr. Law had leave of absence, the former from Monday next, and the latter from Wednesday till the end of the session. Mr. Magruder (clerk) also had leave of absence for three weeks from Monday next.

The amendments of the senate to the bill admitting the state of Louisiana into the union, were taken up and agreed to.

An engrossed bill, providing for the second grade of temporary government of the territory of Louisiana, was read a third time.

Mr. McKee spoke against its passage, and Mr. Alston in favour, when on motion of Mr. Porter, it was laid on the table.

Mr. Porter stated, that he was instructed by the committee of foreign relations to submit something for the consideration of the house, when the galleries were ordered to be cleared and the doors closed, and remained closed for about three quarters of an hour.

When the doors were opened and the reporter for this Gazette entered the house, the speaker was reading certain precedents from the journals of congress on former occasions, relative to a breach of the privileges of the houses.

Mr. Grundy submitted the following: Whereas on the 3d day of April, 1812, a committee was appointed to enquire whether there has been any, and if any, what violation of the secrecy imposed by this house, during the present session, as to certain of its proceedings, with power to send for persons papers and records, and it appearing to this house by a report made by said committee, that in pursuance of the powers vested in them, they had called on Nathaniel Rounsavell, for the purpose of obtaining his testimony relative to the subject of the enquiry, and that he has refused to answer on oath certain interrogatories, pertinent to the subject about which the committee were empowered to enquire. Wherefore, Resolved, That the serjeant at arms be directed to bring Nathaniel Rounsavell immediately to the bar of the house to answer such interrogatories as may be propounded to him by the speaker under the direction of the house.

After considerable debate the resolution was adopted. The committee of investigation was then discharged from further proceedings on the subject, and it was taken up by the house, & certain interrogatories ordered to be put to the witness.

In conformity with the above, Mr. Rounsavell was brought to the bar of the house, and after being sworn, the speaker propounded to him the following interrogatory:

Question.—From the conversation of what members did you collect the information of which you have spoken in your deposition before the committee?

Answer.—I refused to answer that question before the committee, and I persist in refusing to answer it.

The witness was then remanded into the custody of the serjeant at arms.

Mr. Seybert offered the following:—Resolved, That Nathaniel Rounsavell be committed to the custody of the serjeant at arms until further order, and that in the meantime he be precluded from all intercourse or conversation with any person or persons other than the serjeant at arms, except in his presence and hearing.

This proposition gave rise to a very animated debate.

Mr. Williams moved to strike out that part of the resolution in Italics. The question on striking out was taken by yeas and noes, and were—yeas 62, nays 22.

The resolution as amended was then adopted.

The House adjourned at half past four o'clock.

Tuesday, April 7.

Mr. Morrow, from the committee of public lands, to whom was referred the bill from the Senate for incorporating Moses Austin