

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Baltimore Riots!

To the annexed Report of the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice, appointed by the House of Delegates to inquire into the causes of the recent Mobs and Riots in the City of Baltimore, the attention of the good people of Maryland is earnestly invited. It discloses a series of violations of Law, Order, and every safe-guard of society, to which our Country has hitherto been a stranger.

It is not our purpose to dwell upon any of the atrocities detailed in this Report—may the angry passions of faction sleep! Indeed, much credit is due to the committee, as well for the ability, patience and assiduity, with which they have prosecuted this investigation, as for the temperate language in which they have embodied the incidents it discloses—it affords an awful admonition both to the People and to the Ministers of the Law. A prevailing Faction, in the bosom of a populous City boasting an exclusive attachment to our Republican Institutions, assailed, with lawless violence, the lives and property of Citizens exercising a constitutional privilege in defence of the Freedom of the Press, the most efficient bulwark of the Rights of Man. Such was the imbecility of the officers, civil and military, and such the implacable fury of the highly professing patriots who triumphed in the prostration of the rights of their fellow-citizens, that no effectual resistance was opposed to their turbulence, cruelty and barbarity. This is a picture of Democracy in the spirit most fatal to the existence of Republics—Contenting parties alternately wield it for the annoyance and discomfiture of each other—With various success the unhappy contest is supported, until the Tempests of Faction subside into the Calm of Despotism. Shall this be the Fate of the American Republic? People of Maryland you will decide for yourselves. If you would avoid the fate of the free governments of ancient and of modern times, you will forever frown upon that fierce and intolerant Democracy which has convulsed your state to its extremities. You will strenuously support the Freedom of the Press, and unite in maintaining inviolate the Laws and Constitution of your Country.

Mr. Dorsey, Chairman of the Committee, delivered the following Report:

THE Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice, to whom the following Order of the House of Delegates, of November the eighteenth, eighteen hundred and twelve, was referred—"Ordered, That the Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice be and they are hereby instructed, to inquire into the late Riots and Mobs in the City of Baltimore, and the causes thereof, with a view to ascertain whether there has been any culpable inattention or neglect of duty on the part of any of the Civil or Military Officers of the state, or whether the defect is in the Law, in order that the proper remedy in either case may be applied."

Begin leave to Report, in Part—That in compliance with the Order of the House of Delegates, and under the exercise of a general power with which the Committee of Grievances are invested, they have inquired into the recent disturbances which have so agitated the city of Baltimore, and depressed the reputation of our state in the eyes of our sister Republics, "the causes thereof, and the conduct of the civil and military officers in relation thereto." They find, from the testimony collected by your committee, and which accompanies this Report, that the city of Baltimore has for a long time been considered as the ardent advocate of every measure of the general government leading to the War in which the Nation is now engaged.

That the Federal Republican, edited by Messieurs Hanson and Wagner, exercising a constitutional right of reviewing the measures of the national cabinet, arraigned, in glowing colours, the integrity and policy of the system which was to plunge the nation into hostilities: That the exercise of this right produced a general spirit of intolerance against that establishment; and that leading and distinguished advocates of the administration, were so far forgetful of the spirit of our constitution, of the sacred protection which the freedom of the press required from their hands, and of their obedience to the sovereignty of the law, as to indulge in denunciations against the establishment, and to circulate the horrible impression, that the same course of strictures upon the measures of the cabinet, would, after a declaration of war, merit and receive the summary application of popular vengeance. The fitness and correctness of this doctrine were indicated by the instrumentality of the democratic presses, having an extensive circulation amongst that description of persons the most likely to be impelled to excesses, and the fit instruments of outrage—That under the influence of the feelings excited by the above improper expressions of distinguished characters, and publications in the democratic papers, committees were organized by men of daring character, (only one of whom has been named to your committee,) to obtain subscribers to a plan, having for its undisguised object, the demolition of the Office of the Federal Republican. In this effluence of the public feeling, and state of prepara-

tion, the Congress of the United States declared war on the eighteenth of June. The editorial remarks in the Federal Republican on the ensuing day, reprobated the motives and expediency of the measure: The ministerial papers replied to those remarks in a style of bitterness and acerbity, well calculated to direct and secure the consummation of the promised threat of revenge. On Sunday rumours were afloat, and a belief entertained, that public meetings at Pamphelion's Hotel, The Apollo, and Stewart's Gardens, had determined to silence the press. On Monday the paper appeared without remarks on the attitude which the Congress had assumed; but still, well grounded apprehensions were entertained by Mr. Wagner, that his establishment and person were both endangered, and he took the precautionary measure of removing his book of accounts from the office. In the evening the plan of lawless outrage was commenced by a parcel of boys and a few men. The assemblage quickly augmented, bringing with them fire-locks, and every apparatus requisite for the destruction of the building. The operations of the Mob were conducted with a regularity and subordination inducing a belief that the whole was the result of a digested system of operations, and terminated in a loss to the proprietors of three or four thousand dollars.

In this work of destruction a Frenchman was the most conspicuous and vociferous against the establishment, upon account of the general tone of its politics. A portion of the rioters, under a belief that Mr. Wagner was concealed in the old office of discount and deposit, attempted to enter the same; from this they were diverted by the zeal of two democratic gentlemen, who gave them assurances that Mr. Wagner was not there. The destruction of the house cost much labour and time; during which many stood by, and contributed nothing to the protection of the rights guaranteed to the citizens by our form of government. From the force of this remark, your committee with pleasure except the names of Edward Johnson, the mayor of the city, and judge Scott, who used every persuasive suggestion to divert the mob from their outrages; but who omitted to attempt a resort to the protection created by the vigilance of the legislature, in procuring a requisition for a military force, when they saw the civil authority inadequate to the security of Mr. Wagner and his property. From the office of discount and deposit a part of the mob proceeded to the house of Mrs. Wagner's father; and a committee, appointed by themselves, searched every apartment of the house; there an Irishman was the most noted for his savage threats. They next visited Mr. Wagner's own house, and used every stratagem which rage suggested, to hunt out the contemplated victim of their revenge. No efficient measures being adopted the ensuing morning by the constituted authorities of the city, to arrest the rioters, and to cause them to enter into the customary recognizance to keep the peace, they were emboldened, and sought for new victims; they collected in the evening, with a force almost incredible, at the house of one Hutchens, charged by them with using expressions derogatory to the character of General Washington. They demanded him, with expressions of rage evidencing a determination to sacrifice him—The mayor had prevailed on him to escape. To prevent any violence to his house, and to cause the rioters to disperse, it was suggested that the mayor and George E. Mitchell, Esquire, late a member of the executive council, should enter the house and search it; this they did amidst the cries of Hutchens's children, and reported to the mob that he was not to be found—They then dispersed, with promises of future vengeance against him, and those who either should rally for his protection or for the preservation of the peace of the city. To the shipping, regularly cleared out according to the laws of the United States to unprohibited ports, and bearing the products of our soil, they turned their attention; and in their strength, by dismantling the vessels, they prohibited to the merchant the pursuit of wealth in the channels sanctioned by the government of his country. In the wantonness of their cruelty, the unfortunate blacks attracted their attention; and Briscoe, a free negro, charged with the expressions of affection for the British, was to deplore the sacrifice of his houses, (amounting to about eight hundred dollars,) by their unfeeling agency. An African Church, erected by the piety of the well disposed for the improvement and amelioration of the blacks, became to them an object of jealousy; and rumours of a combination for its destruction, at length aroused the municipality of the city from its lethargy, and a patrol of horse, by overawing the turbulent, gave to this unhappy place the appearance of quiet.

Your committee have omitted to present to your consideration a variety of incidents, where private revenge sought its gratification under the imposing garb of zeal against the reputed enemies of their country; and where those citizens who have sought an asylum here from the oppressions of their own governments, attempted to gratify their embittered passions by proscriptions of each other, the alleged causes of which existed before their emigration. To this source may be traced those convulsi-

ons of the city, where the United Irishmen and Orange-Men were the most prominent. During this prostration of the civil authority, Mr. Wagner sought an establishment in the District of Columbia, where the Federal Republican was revived. Mr. Hanson, impelled by considerations of duty to his country, and believing that a decisive stand ought to be taken for the preservation of the freedom of the press, resolved on its re-establishment in the city of Baltimore. A right secured to him by the first principle and express language of our compact. Woful experience had taught him to believe, that the same spirit of intolerance which led to its first annihilation, would again manifest itself, by an attempt to prevent its re-establishment; and confidently expecting that a resistance on the first onset would lead either to the dispersion of the mob, or the interposition of the civil authority, and thus cause a recognition of his right to locate his establishment there; he organized, by the aid of his personal friends in Montgomery, a force for, and a plan of, defence, but not of aggression. In execution of this design he came to Baltimore on Sunday the twenty-sixth of July—his friends arrived on the same day; their arrival was known but to few. The means of defence and resistance, had been previously prepared and deposited in the house, with a secrecy and caution, defying a suspicion of the object; and on Monday morning the Federal Republican was circulated amongst the subscribers, purporting to be printed at No. 45, Charles-street. This paper contained spirited strictures upon the lawless temper of the city, and the indisposition of the civil or military officers to discharge the respective duties of their office; and upon the executive of Maryland. It does not appear to your committee, that the state of preparation in which Mr. Hanson and his friends were, was known to the citizens generally, or that any acts were done by them, either calculated to excite irritation or apprehension of aggression in the minds of the citizens—Their course of conduct during the whole day evidenced a determination to adhere to the original design, of avoiding all ostentation of preparation, and to act entirely on the defensive. During the day, information was communicated to those in the house, that an attack would be made; every precaution which prudence and humanity suggested was adopted, to prevent any occurrence which might attract the attention of the mob. About early candle light, the wicked and daring attempt to expel a citizen from his residence, or to involve in one common ruin himself and his property, was commenced, and continued, notwithstanding frequent and reiterated solicitations by the persons in the house to the mob, to desist and retire; and not until the windows were shattered, was even a fire of intimidation permitted from the house. At this, the mob dispersed; but shortly returned with a drum, and fire arms, and with an increased violence attacking the house most furiously in the front and rear. But the same spirit of forbearance animated its defenders, till the door was burst open, when a discharge of musquetry wounded some of the assailants. Judge Scott hurried to this scene of uproar, and, with Mr. Abell, used every persuasive argument to induce the mob to desist, but with no success; his language and authority were alike treated with contempt. Every exertion which men divested of reason, and inflamed by passion could make, was made to destroy the defenders of the house—To execute this savage design, the door was again burst open, and a man by the name of Gales, the chief of the mob, shot dead as he entered. A field piece was procured by the mob, and elevated at the house.

While this bloody scene was acting before the house of Mr. Hanson, many well disposed citizens, alarmed for the peace of the city, and anxious for the preservation of the persons in the house, gathered at Brigadier-General Stricker's; who, irritated by Mr. Hanson's return to the city, which might be the innocent cause of a requisition being made upon him by the civil authority, which would necessarily be attended with a responsibility, received some of the applications which were made to him, for the interposition of a military force, in a style well adapted to excite irritation; but still consented to obey any call which the magistracy should deem it expedient to make on him. But such was the intolerant spirit of the magistracy against that establishment, or such was their anxiety to avoid any responsibility for their official duties, that great difficulty, and much delay, occurred in procuring two magistrates sufficiently devoted to the public good, and their oath of office, to sign the requisition. Major Barney, of the cavalry, before this, had received an order to repair to his general, which he obeyed with alacrity, and received from him a copy of the orders herewith submitted. Major Barney, with about thirty horsemen under his command, moved down between 1 and 3 o'clock to the house. The mob, apprehensive of an efficient resistance, were alarmed, and at his approach generally retired. But his conduct soon dispelled their fears, and gave rise to a belief among them that he was either unwilling, or incompetent, to enforce their dispersion. Thus all apprehensions of the military or civil interposition being banished, the timid were emboldened,

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I WISH TO SELL,
2 or 3 likely young negro women,

Two of them have each a male child. They will be sold low, to persons in the state, for cash. Apply to
4 Joseph G. Harrison,
Near Friendship, A. A. county.
December 3. 37.

State of Maryland, sc.

On application, by petition, of Joseph G. Harrison, administrator of Jeremiah C. Simmons, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, it is ordered, that he give the notice required by law, for the creditors to bring in their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week for the space of six successive weeks in the Maryland Gazette.

John Gasaway, Reg. Wills for A. A. county.

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE,
That the subscriber of Anne-Arundel county, hath obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Jeremiah C. Simmons, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the third day of March next, they may otherwise be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 24th day of November, 1812.

Joseph G. Harrison, Admr.

NOTICE.

The subscriber hereby gives notice, that he intends to apply to Anne-Arundel county court, or some one of the Judges thereof, in the recess of said court, for the benefit of the act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, passed at November session, 1805, and the several supplements thereto.

WILLIAM JAMES, w8*

Nov. 10, 1812.

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John O'Hara, 8r.

December 3.

For Sale

A Negro Woman, aged 32, with four Children, three girls and a boy, the eldest daughter nine years of age, the second four, the boy's age seven. Enquire at the Gazette Office.

October 29. 9 t.

To the Voters

Of Anne-Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

GENTLEMEN,
Having become a Candidate for the Office of Sheriff at the next Electoral period, have thought proper to give this early notice of my intention to do so. On this occasion I earnestly solicit the support of my fellow-citizens: Should my efforts be crowned with success, it would be the object of my care to discharge the duties that would devolve on me with justice and humanity.

REZIN SPURRIER, 3m.
Annapolis, October 8, 1812.

Wanted

TO HIRE, BY THE YEAR,

A NEGRO WOMAN,

who understands House Work, for which a liberal price will be given. Enquire at this Office.

Sept. 17.

NOTICE.

I will Rent, or Sell, my FARM, near South River Church. For terms apply to Nicholas Brewer, of the City of Annapolis.

FRANCIS YATES: 7
November 12.