

THE CONVENTION.

Of the Protestant Episcopal Church will meet in the City of Baltimore, on Wednesday the 20th day of May next.

An Act for the better protection of Slave-holders in the several Counties therein mentioned.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the first day of May next, it shall not be lawful for any licensed retailer, or retailers in Calvert county, Anne-Arundel county, and Saint Mary's county, or for any person or persons residing in either of these counties, to sell or make and sell distilled spirits, or other liquors, to suffer any free negro or mulatto, or any negro or mulatto servant or slave, to be in his, her, or their store-house, or other house wherein he, she, or they may be accustomed to sell distilled spirits, or other liquors, between sunset in the evening, and sunrise of the succeeding morning: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to the sale of such liquors for use or sale, as shall have a written order or license for that purpose, from his master, mistress, overseer, or other person in whose premises such sale is actually to be with the consent of the owner or owners.

2. And be it enacted, That if any person or persons shall suffer or permit any negro or mulatto to be in his, her, or their house, contrary to the provisions of this law, the person or persons so offending, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence, the sum of fifty dollars, the one half to the informer, and the other half to the said county, in case such negro or mulatto was free, and the one half to the informer, and the other half to the master, mistress, or overseer, in case such negro or mulatto was a servant or slave of the time the offence was committed, to be a legal and recovered, on indictment and conviction, or confession of the party accused, in the county court of the said counties.

3. And be it enacted, That if on the conviction aforesaid, the person or persons so convicted, shall fail or be unable to pay the fine aforesaid, the county court shall, in their discretion, order the said person or persons so convicted, to be confined in the public goal in the county, for a term not exceeding three months.

4. And be it enacted, That in all prosecutions that may hereafter be had under the aforesaid provisions of this law, it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the jury, who shall try the issue joined, that a free negro or mulatto, or a negro or mulatto servant or slave, was in any store, or other place as aforesaid, within the time prescribed by this law, such evidence shall be sufficient to establish the fact, that such negro or mulatto was suffered and permitted to be there by the possessor and occupier of such store-house, or other house, unless he, she, or they, shall be able to show, by credible testimony, that he, she, or they, or his, her, or their agents or workmen, did not know that such negro or mulatto was in such store-house, or other house, or knowing the same used all necessary means to remove forthwith such negro or mulatto from such store-house, or other house.

5. And be it enacted, That if any person who shall, after the first day of May next, in the counties aforesaid, receive from any negro or mulatto any goods, chattels, or personal property, shall be considered as dealing with such negro or mulatto, and subject to the like pains and penalties, to be recovered in like manner: Provided always, that it shall be lawful to receive of a negro or mulatto, goods, chattels, or personal property, in such cases, and under such circumstances, as by the law made in force for such goods, chattels, or personal property, might be bought of a negro or mulatto, but in no other case.

6. And be it enacted, That in all cases where application shall hereafter be made for a license or permit to retail liquors in the counties aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the court or judge, in the case may be, and in those counties where no judge resides it shall be the duty of the clerks of said counties, to require and examine whether the said license or permit is intended to be used for the use and benefit of the person or persons only in whose name or names the same is applied for, or for the use or benefit of any other person or persons, and the said court or judge, or clerks, as the case may be, may in their discretion examine, upon oath or affirmation, as the case may be, the person or persons in whose name the said license or permit is applied for, whether the same is intended for his, her, or their own use, or for the use and benefit of any other person or persons, and if it shall appear on such inquiry and examination, that the said license or permit is intended for the use or benefit of any other person or persons, then it shall not be lawful to grant the same.

7. And be it enacted, That the act shall be given in charge to the grand jury of the several counties, at the beginning of every term: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to negroes or mulattoes employed as waiters, or travellers putting up or stopping whilst travelling through said counties.

From the Georgetown Messenger.

We extract the following extraordinary case of an elopement from an English paper, which has been politely favoured us by a friend. It exhibits a rare instance of perfidy on the one hand, and a misguided attachment on the other, such as is seldom met with any where.

Extraordinary elopement.—The hero of this story is a person calling himself Dr. Wilkes; at other times Mr. Stephen Geary Wilkes; also, captain Bayfield, and Mr. Seymour, and several other titles. This gentleman is a doctor of medicine, and practised with success in a market town in the — of England, but his dishonourable conduct obliged him to leave the place. He deserted his wife (with whom he had a large fortune, which he had expended) and two children, to the casual care of former friends and acquaintances. He soon got an appointment as surgeon in the army, and went

abroad; on his return, he gained the affections of a highly respectable young lady, and thought his former wife, by whom he had a family, was living, he actually married her, and has two children by her, living with their mother at —, a few miles from London. She supported him for a considerable period, being an accomplished woman, by her talent and industry in conducting a young lady's school. Mr. W. at length deserted her also, and only visited her when he wanted a supply of cash. Since the desertion of his second wife, he rendered a family miserable, by seducing one of the daughters. He was compelled to desert this young lady, because his finances were reduced to a few shillings, with which he came to London, at a period when a celebrated gentleman was calling the attention of society to his theories and plans for re-modelling the lower classes of society. His situation was then distressing in the extreme; he applied to a person who had been his friend for advice and assistance. He was recommended to the practice in London, and was promised the support of several persons, to whom he was introduced. He went in company with his friend to a meeting held in the city of London, at which place he was introduced to the above celebrated philanthropist alluded to; he professed to him his admiration of his system for bettering the condition of the lower orders of society. He was invited by the gentleman, whose conduct he had so much praised, to dine with him; and from that time he so ingratiated himself into the good opinion of this friend of the poor, that he recommended him to many of his acquaintance and friends in town, and being a man possessing considerable skill, he would soon have had an extensive practice. By the recommendation of his new patron, he was introduced to a highly respectable family, the head of which holds a situation of considerable importance and profit under government. Upon his patron's stating the confined circumstances of the doctor to this family, he received a general invitation to the table, and he used all the skill which he possessed (which is no mean portion) to obtain the good opinion of its inmates; and by his openness and apparently amiable qualities his presence was considered as necessary almost to the happiness of the family. It happened about this time that the lady of the house, the wife of his friend, was taken ill. The doctor was desired to attend her, & that he might pay more attention to his patient was unremitting; and his visits to her, which were frequently alone, were of considerable length; and when the lady became convalescent, the doctor was praised for his skillfulness.

The lady is under thirty years of age, and possesses a handsome person. The doctor, who is about forty years of age, is a very good looking man; he passed for a widower, and after the complete restoration of the health of his patient, he was requested to continue in his friend's house until he had prepared a suitable place where he could pursue his profession. During the time that this Doctor W. was attending the wife of his friend in a professional capacity—while he was professing to restore her to bodily health, he completely alienated her affections.—After the lady's recovery, her mind appeared to every one (but that of an affectionate husband, who was blinded by excessive love for her) to have undergone a change most extraordinary. Her conduct to her husband became cold, and at times very disrespectful, and towards every other member of the family she acted quite unbecomingly as a mother of several children. Her brother-in-law, Mr. B. who was the only one of her friends that dared to speak in direct terms to this once haughty but now miserable woman, upon the criminality of her conduct, gave her to understand that he had waited to see a change in her behaviour towards the doctor; that he had expected that the indirect warnings of her friends would have been sufficient to have brought her back to the honourable path she had formerly pursued; but he found that she treated her husband with contempt, and her children with not merely neglect, but cruelty. He was satisfied in his mind how such a change had been effected. He told her he should speak his mind freely to her husband, and unless he would calmly

suffer himself to be dishonoured in his own house by the doctor, he would, without ceremony, break his neck out of it. She laughed at the good advice of a valuable friend and relation, and appeared to be perfectly infatuated by passion for the wretch who had worked her ruin. Her brother-in-law informed her husband of his suspicions, and advised him to send her to the country house at Tunbridge-wells. The husband still could not believe that his wife, the mother of his beautiful children, was criminal. He, however, ordered the doctor to leave his house. His wife opposed such a measure most strenuously: she said that such a step was precipitate, unnecessary, ungentleman-like, and inhospitable. On the following day the husband took her to Tunbridge-wells, and there she declared she could not live, she detested the place; and prevailed upon her husband, after residing there two days to return to London. During the time that this doctor, this assassin of domestic happiness, was treated so hospitably at the mansion of Mr. F. he, as it were, held the purse of his friend, and had sums from him to a very considerable amount, which he used as a means to effect his purposes, in carrying off his wife. The very day after the lady returned with her husband from Tunbridge-wells to London, she packed up all her valuables (during the absence of her husband from home) that were portable, in two trunks and two parcels, and had them conveyed to the doctor, who was watching for her in the neighbourhood of her husband's house with a hackney coach; they both got into the coach, and drove off, abandoning a truly affectionate husband and her two fine interesting children; leaving wealth and happiness, for poverty, misery, and the precarious protection of her seducer. The following circular was sent to the tradesmen of Mr. F. and also to the different post masters in England, for the purpose of discovering the retreat of the fugitive.

"A person calling himself Dr. Wilkes, and Stephen Geary Wilkes, but who also passes by the name of Seymour, and captain Bayfield, was, about six weeks since, taken out of a situation of great pecuniary distress, placed in an employment of his own choice, securing to him sufficient temporary provision; and the means of future advantage, from the application of his industry; & above all, received into the house of his benefactor as an inmate. Here he availed himself of his professional attendance on the wife of his friend, during a fever, to corrupt her mind and alienate her affections. His villainous intentions were no sooner discovered, than he was promptly dismissed the house, and precaution taken to prevent a catastrophe, which, however, the malignancy of the one party and the weakness of the other have conspired to produce, and by which a husband has been robbed of his wife, and his children of a mother. It is superfluous to add, that the chief object of this detestable assassin of domestic happiness, was the pillage of the purse of his friend, which afforded him the means even to carry his secondary purpose into effect. This Dr. Wilkes had taken a lodging in Foley street, and from thence went into a hackney coach with the lady, between 7 and 8 o'clock on Thursday evening; said "he should be too late for the eight o'clock coach," but was set down at the top of Dean street, Oxford street, with a trunk and two parcels, and may have proceeded to the Continent.

"No intelligence whatever has since been heard of the lady, and all inquiry after Wilkes (or Seymour) has proved fruitless. It is supposed that he has debarred her of all communication with her friends, who are in the greatest anxiety on her account."

The above instances of the base practices of this Wilkes, are only a few of the numerous villainies which he has committed. The last wife he married was the daughter of — B. Esq. of Holborn hill, & niece to Dr. H. an eminent oculist. This lady he treated with the greatest brutality prior to his deserting her. Ever since Mrs. F. eloped with the doctor, every effort had been used by her friends to discover her retreat. Two days ago, Mr. B. her brother-in-law, was walking near St. James' Park, and saw the doctor and Mrs. F. walking together. He gave a pound note to a soldier in the guards to watch them, and follow them until he got a constable. He and the soldier followed them

until they arrived at their lodgings, a miserable apartment in a shop-keeper's shop in a little street in South work, Mr. B. procured a constable, and arrested the doctor, in whose bosom he saw a valuable brooch (a cameo) upon which a profile of the injured husband, and underneath a crystal stone, on the same brooch was the letter F. the initial of the husband's surname. Mr. B. immediately charged the doctor with stealing the brooch, and the officer conveyed him to Union Hall, where he was examined in the evening before the magistrate. The doctor was dressed fashionably, in a military great coat; and when charged with felony, he laughed at his accusers—he declared that the lady gave him the brooch. The unfortunate woman was in the outer office, during the examination, calling upon her "dear doctor." She said she would go with him; they should not take her from him; she would go to prison with him.—The officers and one of her friends prevented her from intruding herself into the magistrate's room, because her husband did not wish to be in her company, and was desirous of avoiding her, as though she had injured him and his children, yet he could not entirely forget her whom he had once so dearly loved.

The magistrate asked Mr. F. if he wished his wife to be called in and examined on oath, whether she gave the doctor the brooch or not?—Mr. F. said, that if the magistrate would order the brooch to be restored to him, he would withdraw the charge. The magistrate immediately caused the brooch to be delivered to him, and the doctor was discharged, and appeared very eager to get out of the office. On his way out, he was arrested by Mr. Jarvis, the sheriff's officer, and taken to the lock-up house. The doctor declared that it was a false arrest, and that a conspiracy was formed between Mr. Jarvis and Mr. B. to deprive him of his liberty, & would not be satisfied to the contrary until proved to him by documents that he had had the writ in his possession for many months, but had been unable to meet with him. The doctor and the lady had not a shilling left, and they had pledged all the property which she took away from her husband. When Mrs. F. was informed that the doctor was arrested for debt, she went into an hysterical fit.

The doctor is now confined in Horse-monger-lane goal; & although this most unfortunate woman has been offered by a friend a respectable asylum, she is so infatuated that she declined the offer, and actually visits the author of her ruin in prison. She has no money, nor can have any until her dividend (of property she possesses in her own right by settlement) is due.

ANOTHER NEW MONSTER.

To Dr. Mitchell, the editors of the New-York Gazette are indebted for a copy of the following letter, addressed to him by James Crawford, Esq.

Prairie des Chien, 25th Nov. 1817.

Sir, Understanding that you entertain a strong predilection for natural curiosities, I, at the particular request of a friend personally known to you, transmit you the subjoined relation, which you are at liberty to make use of as you may deem consistent. Returning late last fall from the Indian Hunting Ground, situated near the mouth of the River St. Peters, I had occasion to go ashore at a particular rock, which forms the cave noticed in the Journal of the late Mr. Carver, with two of my hunters, when our attention was attracted by a noise, somewhat resembling the bellowing of a buffalo at a distance. We immediately proceeded in search of the object, and on arriving at the mouth of the cave, encountered a serpent of most prodigious appearance, probably fifteen feet in length, and proportionable in thickness, with four short legs, somewhat resembling the alligator. His head was disproportionately large, with glossy eyes situated towards the back of his head. The back was of a shining black, covered with strong and apparently impenetrable scales. The belly was variegated with different colours. Its tail on perceiving us was coiled over the back, except when it beat the ground, which was always accompanied by the bellowing which first attracted us. It may be enquired, why we did not fire on it, which can be mostly easily defined by imagining the indiscreet agitation which the menacing attitude

would excite. The animal would not permit their muskets to be pointed at him, and he would glide into the recesses of the cave, but he could not be so easily abandoned. The hunters, who were determined to try their skill in this wonderful creature, on receiving a minute's notice, as well as a faithful record of the circumstances attendant on the expedition.

I am, Sir, with respect, your Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, New-York.

THE MAMMOTH.

From the Entomologist, published at Louisville.

Prairie des Chien, March 10, Sir, The present appears to be as fruitful in curiosities, on the part as well as on the deep. I take liberty to send you for publication a copy of a letter to Dr. Mitchell written by a gentleman of New-York, who has been for some time past, a sojourner in the wilds of the per Mississippi. The strange account which he there gives of the re-appearance of the Mammoth among the wild animals—will add to the naturalist matter of the public generally, equal curiosity as the recent appearance of the serpent on the shores of the Atlantic. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, &c.

Prairie des Chien, March 10, 1818.

Dr. Saml. L. Mitchell, Sir,

Believing that the occurrence which happen in this country, is not uninteresting to you, I take me to describe to you the emigration of the Buffalo and the recent appearance of a large animal, supposed to be the Mammoth.

Do not be too much surprised at the mention of a quadruped so long since considered extinct. The present age is only acquainted with the skeleton of the Mammoth; there is strong grounds for believing the present existence of this formidable and gigantic animal. Various Indian accounts have lately reached us of its having been seen on the Big Prairie, and not far from the head of Redwood river, which empties into river St. Peters. The latest account of it, is given by the Sioux of the land, (as they are termed) a wandering band of the Sioux nation. They describe it as being far superior in size to the Buffalo, or any known animal that abounds on the Mississippi or its waters. On seeing this animal the Indians were alarmed and terrified. They conceived it to be the Manitou or evil spirit. Besides the attention which the appearance of this animal has excited, the minds of the people here have been awakened at the sight of numerous animals, that are collected to, and surrounded this place. What has given rise to this great commotion of the animal kingdom in this quarter of our country, will appear difficult to explain. From some cause or other the animals have been much disturbed; and being either impelled by fright, or the want of assistance, have wandered from their accustomed abodes, and sought a shelter in this neighbourhood. The deer, the panthers, and the bears are now seen around us, in greater plenty than has ever yet been known. The buffalo which has long since been driven off the Indian hunting grounds, and sought security from the savage hunter, by retreating west, have lately crossed the Mississippi nigh this place, in considerable herds; and are travelling towards the lake frontier.

To account satisfactorily for this extraordinary emigration of animals, and the recent appearance of the supposed mammoth (which the Indian traders say, came from the western explored regions of the north west) will be deemed difficult. But I believe one probable conjecture is, that earthquakes have been the principal cause. We have felt several light shocks here; and have received accounts of dreadful earthquakes in the west.

Milledgeville, April 10, Latest from the Army. A letter from Genl. Macleod to the editors of the Journal, dated

for St. Marks, 7th April, states that the late last, a skirmish took place between the advance of the army and a portion of the Micksaka Indians, (most of them led by the approach of our troops.) The Tennessee detachment rushed forward, and participated slightly in the action; they had one man killed and four wounded—seven of the enemy were slain; their number of wounded is not known. Genl. Henderson of Wilks county is stated to have killed an Indian chief, the same who is understood to have headed the party that murdered Lee and Loters while crossing Cedar creek. The day after the skirmish Genl. Gaines was ordered with one thousand men to scour and lay waste the adjacent country. He did so, but the enemy had disappeared—five negroes were taken by

Fowl-Town, Mickasuka, & some others have been destroyed—1000 head of beef cattle, and several thousand bushels of corn have fallen into our hands. Genl. Jackson has taken possession of St. Marks, a Spanish post on the river of that name—the commander protested against this measure, but did not think proper to oppose its execution with force. The army has marched against the town of Suwanney, distant about thirty miles, and it is expected reached there on Thursday last, but it was not believed that the Indians would make a stand at that or any other place. Some having surrendered themselves prisoners, and the rest have been dispersed—so that the war with them may be considered nearly at an end. The militia from this state, we understand, will be marched to Trader's Hill and discharged in a few days. Capl. Arbuthnot, a British officer, was captured at St. Marks. If we mistake not he was engaged during the late contest with Great Britain, in aiding up the Indians to hostility against us, and commandant for some time at the negro fort erected on the Appalachicola which was subsequently demolished by our troops.

By the hoisting the British flag, several Indians were decoyed on board of some gunboats that ascended the St. Marks river the 31st ult. among them was a Chief, and the prophet Francis, both of whom were barged—the rest were liberated. St. Marks, when taken, was strongly fortified, had twenty pieces of heavy ordnance mounted, and was garrisoned by about fifty men, who have since embarked for Pensacola. McIntosh, whose vigilance and enterprise merit commendation, has captured about 100 more prisoners. Journal.

By the President of the United States.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas an arrangement was entered into at the City of Washington, in the month of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, between Richard Rush, Esquire, at that time acting as Secretary for the Department of State of the U. States, and in behalf of the government of the United States; and the Right Honourable Charles Bagot, his Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, and in behalf of his Britannic Majesty, which arrangement is in the words following, to wit: The naval force to be maintained upon the American lakes, by his Majesty and the Government of the United States, shall henceforth be confined to the following vessels on each side; that is— On Lake Ontario, to one vessel not exceeding one hundred tons, and armed with one eight pound cannon. On the Upper Lakes, to two vessels not exceeding like burden each, and armed with like force. On the waters of Lake Champlain, to one vessel not exceeding like burden, and armed with like force. All other armed vessels on these lakes, shall be forthwith dismantled, and no other vessel of war shall there be built or armed. If either party should be heretofore desirous of annulling this stipulation, and should give notice to the other party, it shall be binding after the expiration of six months from the date of such notice. The naval force so to be limited shall be restricted to such service as will, in no respect, interfere with the proper duties of the armaments of the other party. And whereas the Senate of the United States have approved of said arrangement, and recommend that

it should have the same having, tion of his Petition, Regent and of the Maltese. Now, there President of by this my town and de ment aforesaid on thereof, h into, concluded is of full force Given under of Washing day of Apr Lord one and eighteen dence of forty-second By the Presid JOHN C

DISTRICT At the little past 12 was alarmed Public attention drawn to that the south side two houses, the Jesse Knock occupied by Messrs. Wiley of Mr. Michael by Mr. Joseph the house and Govington, all the to the dev damages are ex \$12,000.

WASH Private account of the Commissioners and Bland, to was, at the last ro, represent Portuguese and missionaries, not hospitable dep contrary, it is were received a ference, amount ness. Some d between the off and the govern seaman of the be delivered up tizing in which to have exhibit belongs to our these occurrences only from gene nothing of the perhaps, if we sufficiently imp they are, we s them in time.

CINCINNATI THE VERMONT

On Saturday miserable looking children passed of this place, a woods, about The Mayor and thentic information on by the small extreme filthiness a committee, rec by at as great a as convenience

During the wriosity led colon people from the try, to see them Cincinnati in the wayfarng Pilgrims totally choked w with anxious ey for a peep at the however, return compassion" for ty consists of sons, including there is a gre theological reason ing about the home, and with the necessaries and willingly gi and the practice riarchs and good any. But the b religion they se disclose. Perha subdued and