Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS:
Thursday, May 2, 1833.

COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Annapolis, April 19, 1833.

In consequence of the Executive Council not having formed a board, on or since the 17th inst. the members are requested to meet in the Council Chamber, on Monday, the 6th day of May next.

TH. CULBRETH, Clk.

COMMUNICATED.

To the friends of the Administration in the Congressional Dist. composed of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth wards of the city of Baltimore, Anne-Arundel county, and the city of Annapolis.

The Legislature at their last annual session having thought proper to divide the State of Maryland so as to connect the large county of Anne-Arundel, both in respect to territory and population, with a portion of the city of Baltimore and the city of Annapolis, and thus form a congressional district, it is deemed expedient, in order to ensure union and concert among the friends of the administration, in the selection and support of an individual to represent said district in the national legislature, to have a convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate. It is therefore respectfuly proposed to the friends of the administration, to hold meetings in their respective districts and wards, on the second Saturday of May (the 11th.) for the purpose of appointing three individuals from each, to meet in General Convention at Merrill's Tavern, (Waterloo) on the third Saturday of May next the 18th.

MANY VOTERS.

We invite the attention of our readers to the notice of St. John's College, which we have extracted from the Baltimore Chronicle, and published in our paper of to day. This Institution, once celebrated for the number of excellent scholars which it produced, is again winning the public favour. Never had the student a better opportunity of receiving an education which will fit him for discharging the various offices of the state. The library has been considerably increased by the donation of the late Lewis Neth, Esq. and others. The Principal has just returned from our large cities, in which he has made a considerable addition to the Philosophical apparatus, and the course of study is equal to that of any of the Colleges in the U. S. The citizens of Maryland are now without apology for sending to distant states their children to be educated—Equal advantages may be found at home, and we venture to affirm, that the discipline of the College is equal to that of any of the Eastern ones, and that the Students here are not less orderly and correct in their deportment, than in those Institutions in other states, which it has been the practice to consider as eminently calculated to preserve the morals of the youth educated at them.

Communicated.

The increase of the Catholic Church in England within a few years is astonishing.—In Manchester a short time since there were but 70, and there is now 42,080. In a procession formed in that place of the Catholic Sunday scholars there were upwards of 6,000, and preparations were making for 5,000 more. These schools are under the care of the Brothers of Mercy. In the Island of Great Britain they have 11 Colleges and 35 Seminaries. In the United States there are enumerated more than half a million of Catholics, which is more than one twenty-fourth part of the whole population. At the commencement of the revolution there were two priests in the country, and it is about 40 years since the first diocess was erected. They have nine Colleges, to wit. George town College, St. Mary's College, Baltimore; Mount Saint-Mary's, Emmittsburgh; the Athenæum, Cincinnati; St. Joseph's, Bardstown, Ky.; Saint-Thomas, Bardstown, Ky.; Saint-Mary's Barrens, Perry county, Mo.; Spring Hill, Alabama; St. Louis, Missouri. There are nine Academies for young gentlemen, to wit. St. Mary's, Washington county, Ky.; St. Rose, near Springfield, Ky.; St. Mary's Barrens, Perry county, Missouri; Seminary of Charleston. S. C.; St. James' near Cedarville, Brown county, Ohio; St. John the Evangelist, Frederick-town, Mo.; an Academy South Fourth-st. Philadelphia, another South Thirteenth-st. and a Seminary at Iberville, Louisiana.—There are a great number of Academies for young ladies. Among them are the following, The Visitation of the B V. Mary, Georgetown, D C., and one of the same order near Mobile, Alabama; St. Joseph's Academy, Emmitsburgh; Mount Benedict, Charlestown, Massachusetts; one at New Orleans; Nazareth, Bardstown, Ky.; Loretto, Washington county, Ky.; Saint Magdalen, Washington county, Ky.; Holy Mary, Ky.; one at Gethsemani; St. Clare's, Pittsburgh; St. Clare's, Vincennes; Sacred Heart, St. Louis, Missouri; one at St. Louis, Mo.; one at Saint Ferdinand; one at St. Charles; one at Bethlehem, Perry county, Mo.; one at Fredericktown, Mo.; one at New Madrid; two in Baltimore; one at Grand Coteau, Opelousas, Louisiana; one at the Gothic Mansion, Chesnut-street, Philadelphia; one in Washington, D. C. Beside these the Sisters of Charity have Orphan Asylums and schools at Albany, Alexandria, D. C.; two in Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Frederick, Md.; New Orleans, two in New York, three in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Washington, D. C.; Wilmington, Del.

For the Maryland Gazette.

STATE REFORM,

(Concluded.)

But it is said that this *reform* is necessary in order to prevent the minority from ruling the majority. Now, according to the notions of the foolish framers of our Constitution, this is not to be apprehended. By them it was supposed that the will of the people is to be found at all times expressed in the Constitution. In that instrument it was declared, at what places, and by whom, and how, those were to be elected, who were to make laws for the state, and the laws thus made are obligatory upon all, not because made by those who were voted for by all, but because made by those who are elected in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, which expresses the will of all. But according to the creed now proclaimed, it might be scarcely possible to find in our statute book a law which was made by the majority even although the reform now desired had taken place. Their *reform* might be adopted, and yet the majority might not make laws, while a bare majority of our delegates is a quorum to transact business, and the bare majority of a quorum is permitted to enact laws.

In order that a majority, according to the notions of these gentlemen, should govern, it would be necessary not only that the number of representatives for each county should be according to the number of votes which each county gives, but that in each county the delegates should be elected by the same majority. Indeed an increased delegation would not necessarily give to the large counties all that influence in the legislature which is claimed for them, because of their population. Saint-Mary's is a much smaller county than Frederick, yet in the election of state officers this year, Saint-Mary's had all the influence which four votes could give to it, while Frederick had no influence at all, because of its equally divided delegation, and the result would have been the same although Frederick had elected twice the number of delegates, if the people still elected one-half to vote in opposition to the other. Small as Saint-Mary's is, those who represented it in the last legislature were the choice of a larger majority of freemen than any man of the Frederick delegation. Surely the good people of Frederick have no right to complain that their influence in the House of Delegates is not greater, when they themselves please to diminish, nay entirely to destroy that weight which the Constitution designed to give them. Surely it cannot be of importance to a county to be allowed to send more delegates to the legislature when they are so much divided among themselves that those who claim to be the choice of the people of the county were entitled to seats, because the number of voters who choose to be represented by them exceed, by the large number of two or three, or perhaps ten, the number who were unwilling to be represented by any one of them. Surely this paltry majority of Frederick ought not to be represented in our House of Delegates by a greater number than are sent to it by a majority so much greater in Saint-Mary's, and other small counties.

In this our day very much has been said about state rights, and state sovereignties, but for us in Maryland it is reserved to talk about *County rights*. In whatever other respects the advocates of the one may differ with the advocates of the other, in this they are agreed, that the claims of the people to be considered free and equal are utterly groundless. As state sovereignties with some is to take the place of the sovereignty of the people; so with others, the large counties, not because they have greater territory, or a greater population, are entitled to an influence and political power which is to be secured to them at the expense of the equal rights of the people. "The flag of reform is at one time a party standard, moving independently on the subject," and because the party thus to be inveigled into the measure, did not choose, Esau-like, to surrender their birthright, why then "an union of parties" of all and every sort, is to be invited, and their movements are to be directed by "a Central Reform Committee," resident in Baltimore, and no doubt pre-eminently distinguished for their devotion to county rights and county interests. And so they talk about "being girded for the contest, and prepared to vindicate the great principles of equal rights and equal burthens." And thus those who would denounce the Constitution are to be complimented with the title of friends of reform, while men who do not choose to believe that every change is to be desired, are to be branded as the *enemies of reform.*

If indeed it could be proved that these large counties had so much business in the legislature that four of their "most wise, sensible, and discreet men" would be unequal to the transaction of it, then indeed a reason might be found for increasing their delegation. This, however, is not pretended; in very many of the men whom they select to represent them, we have abundant evidence that they do not think it necessary, in order to have their business done, and well done, to choose for the House of Delegates men of the most capacity for the work of legislation. Yet it may well be questioned, whether one wise man will not give to a county more political weight and influence than a score of weak ones in the hall of legislation. Surely it is not necessary to give them more delegates, in order to give to any county in the state an opportunity of sending to the legislature more talent and capacity for business. All that we can learn is, that these *great* counties with their rich clover fields, and more than abundant crops, cannot be content, while any citizen of a small county is allowed the same privilege which they enjoy, is permitted to vote for as many members as they themselves do. It is this which is pronounced to be "an unjust and illiberal system."

But with these gentlemen it has become a maxim, that "representation should be proportionate to taxation." It would be a much sounder maxim, that taxation should be proportionate to wealth; but is it the fault of the smaller counties that wealth does not contribute its just proportion to government?

It is asserted too, that the popular will has upon no subject either its proper influence or its just reflection in the action of the legislature. Surely it cannot be required by those gentlemen that the state should throw away more of its money in schemes for the benefit of these larger counties than they have obtained. What has ever been done for the smaller counties? What has been asked for and denied to the larger counties? For the benefit of what section of Maryland did the state invest so much money in turnpikes and rail-roads? These works, even one splendid, but it may prove valueless work, the Baltimore and Ohio Rail-Road, were undertaken, not for the benefit of the smaller counties, but exclusively for those counties which now complain that they have not their just influence in the councils of the state. They pass, it is true, through one county, which has not yet evinced a desire for this reform, but this because it was necessary that these roads should go through one county not designed to be benefited by them, in order that they should accommodate the farmers of Washington and Frederick. Even the investment in the Canal was made, in a great measure, for the benefit of one of the counties, whose representatives desire the change, and it is the only small county for the benefit of which the money of the state has been expended. We need not here speak of the pittance which was given to the cross-cut, which passes through another reforming county. The necessity of that cross-cut, in order to give to the people of Maryland an additional market for their produce, and to prevent them from being defrauded of the just price of their labour if obliged to sell in Baltimore, had become most obvious. All of these immense sums of money have been obtained by the votes of small counties, for those who now complain that they have not their just influence in the legislature; and what have these large counties ever offered to give to the smaller counties? *Nothing!* It has even, with them, been ground for complaint, that the smaller counties asked but an equal share of the pitiful school fund.

Let not then the large counties, and yet more, let not the large city pretend that they have not realised all to which they were entitled. If they be not content with the number of delegates which their population sends to the legislature, the remedy is with themselves. Let them ask, that their counties be reduced in size, and in population, nay, that their population be made to decrease the number of the counties. But if they choose to continue as they are, let them bear it in mind, that one man is entitled to equal privileges with another, and that it is not just that one man, because he resides in one county, should vote for more delegates than he who resides in another. The right to vote for those who are to make laws for the state, is the right of the citizen—not of the counties, and a residence in no county, large or small, can confer upon one citizen greater privileges than belong to all others.

A SMALL COUNTY MAN.

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The undersigned, being a committee appointed by the citizens of Cumberland, to draft an address to the people of the United States, detailing the particulars of their late dreadful calamity, and the condition to which they are reduced, and of soliciting contributions in their behalf, are enabled, from their own view and from their enquiries on the subject, to make the following statement:

The town of Cumberland is situated at the junction of Wills Creek, with the river Potomac. The national road passing through the place, has given it the advantage of a great amount of travel, and large sums were expended for its accommodation. The principal Hotel was a splendid building and cost the proprietor upwards of twenty-five thousand dollars. There were two other large and commodious Hotels, well kept and provided, upon the same square.

Cumberland being the chief town of Allegany county, and its seat of justice, the principal mercantile business were here transacted. Here also the coal from the mines is brought and deposited for transportation.—The merchants, tradesmen, and mechanics, were all in prosperous circumstances, and were located, as near as conveniently might be, in the vicinity of the Hotels, which formed the centre of business.

The calamitous fire which forms the occasion and subject of this address, broke out at 2 o'clock. P. M. on Sunday the 14th of April, inst. It originated in a Joiner's shop, and is said to have been occasioned by a lighted cigar which a careless boy threw among some shavings. This shop unhappily stood at the northwestern extremity of the business portion of the place, and a strong *north west wind*, prevailing at the time, the flames, burning shingles, and other combustibles, were carried directly through the heart of the town. The citizens laboured first to save the building, which was frame, adjoining the shop where the fire commenced; but this was soon abandoned as hopeless. The panic then became general and uncontrolable, and each endeavouring to save his own effects, carried out store goods, beds, bedding, clothing and furniture into the street; but the houses on both sides were now in a full blaze, the progress of destruction was rapid beyond conception, and those who had placed their effects in the streets, were driven from them by a body of flame and scorching smoke that filled the entire space from side to side, bursting up sideboards, chairs, tables, articles of male and female attire, beds and bedclothes, before the eyes of their owners.

The next effort of the citizens where the flames had not yet reached, was to carry their goods to the houses of their friends at a considerable distance from what was supposed to be the scene of danger. In the midst of these labours, what was their consternation to behold, these places of refuge, even the most distant with all the intervening houses, already on fire.

The inhabitants now withdrew in despair to a distance from the raging element. From a distance from the raging element. From a height to left, one unbroken sheet of flame extending full a quarter of a mile, raging and roaring like a tornado, was the awful spectacle presented to the eye! The two sections of the town were completely separated from each other: to those on the west, the fate and condition of their friends beyond the flames, were involved in mystery and dreadful apprehension. Mothers were separated from their children, and wives from their husbands—but fortunately not a single life has been lost.

In two hours and a half, seventy-five houses fronting on the principal street of the town, including the three hotels, all the stores save one, all the dwellings, shops and materials of the tradesmen and mechanics, were burnt to the ground. The whole number of buildings destroyed, including barns, stables, and other out buildings, cannot it is believed, be short of one hundred and fifty. In this brief space of time, seven hundred people have been rendered houseless and otherwise deplorably destitute. The value of the property destroyed has been estimated at two hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars, and the undersigned believe this estimate to be rather below than above the truth.

In appealing, in behalf of the Cumberland sufferers, to the generous sympathies of their countrymen, the undersigned cherish a lively hope that the appeal will not be made in vain. The spectacle of a thriving village daily increasing in all the comforts of life, reduced in so short a time to a melancholy waste of broken walls and naked chimneys, cannot fail to call forth those principles of active benevolence that form so distinguished a characteristic of the American people.

The following gentlemen, residing in Cumberland, constitute the committee, to receive contributions and distribute them among the sufferers, namely: John Hoye, Thomas J. McKaig, Richard Bell, Rev. L. H. Johns, Wm. McMahon and James P. Carleton.—They are not among the sufferers; and have been instructed and will feel it their duty, to apply all contributions received by them, to the relief of those who are most destitute.—The undersigned avail themselves of this occasion to assure the public that all donations which may be entrusted to the care of these gentlemen, or either of them, will be faithfully applied and accounted for.

JOHN BUCHANAN,
ABRAHAM SHRIVER,
THOMAS BUCHANAN,
A. W. McDONALD,
JOHN McHENRY,
WILLIAM PRICE,
JAMES DIXON,
FRED'K. A. SCHLEY,
JOHN KING.

N. B. Printers throughout the U. States will be pleased to give the above an insertion.

From the (Balt.) Commercial Chronicle.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AT ANNAPOLIS.

After an interval of several years, I visited the ancient city a short time ago, and as I had no business to engage me, I spent the greater part of my time in rambling through the place and contemplating every spot which recalled to my remembrance the joyful days of my youth. But none interested me so much as my Alma Mater, where I combined the pursuits of the academic grove with the pleasing associations of long tried friendships, and took a retrospective glance of the many delightful occurrences of which she was the scene. It was the intention of the founders of the institution to create an University, which should be the nursery of the rising talents of the state, and it continued to flourish equal to expectation until about the year 1804 or 5, when the vandal spirit of intolerant party, violating the pledged faith of the state and the most sacred constitutional and sacramental obligations, robbed it of its funds and consigned it to the low grade of a common grammar school. Under this disadvantage it nevertheless continued a valuable institution to the citizens of Annapolis and the neighbourhood, and sent forth the best prepared boys to the Eastern Colleges for the completion of their education. To the credit of the state and the returning sense of justice, we are now indebted for a partial restitution of the funds, and she now enjoys an income of about $6000 from tuition and state endowments, with an increase of students which promises to progress in a ratio with the eligibility and convenience of the location. There are now a Principal and four Professors, (and it is contemplated to add two more during the current year,) one of Ancient Languages, one of Mathematics and Civil Engineering, one of Grammar, and one of Modern Languages. I had the good fortune to become acquainted with the Principal, and if dignity of character without supercilious hauteur will ensure success, I have no doubt he will deserve it. I have never seen a stranger who interests more on first acquaintance than the Rev. Hector Humphreys. He appears to have all the qualifications necessary to command the respect, secure the affections, and enforce the obedience of the students, more by mild conciliation than forcible coercion; and it is said that his mind and acquirements are of the highest order for his station. I am informed that the other Professors are able and valuable auxiliaries in their several departments. The course of education adopted is equal to any in the United States, the valuable parts of the old regime are retained, and the modern improvements engrafted on them make the collegiate course quite perfect.

The College Building was commenced in early times by one of the proprietary Governors, for the residence of their satrap Excellencies. The size was such as to procure it the name of the Governor's Folly, which was extended to the grounds around, now containing between 30 and 40 acres, enclosed by a light post and rail fence, in which is a large garden well stored with vegetables, and the rest a smooth shaven lawn, affording a beautiful place for exercise. There is one venerable poplar tree standing, which has borne unhurt the blasts of centuries; and handsome rows of trees have been planted which will shortly spread their umbrageous branches over the grounds, and give a delightful shade to the citizens, strangers and students. The College is situated on an eminence of easy access, commanding a full view of the Bay, Severn River, the State House, and many of the most remarkable public and private buildings of the city. No place can be more interesting or more healthy. One fact only need be mentioned to prove the truth of the remark, that for 45 years, since the opening of the institution only one student has died. The present building accommodates the principal and his family, and the rooms, set apart for the classes, are filled with about 80 students, and are capacious enough to contain many more. It also has a large Hall Library and Philosophical Apparatus, all in good order, and increasing by yearly contributions. A building counterpart to the present, and to be connected with it by a colonnade, or arcade, will be shortly erected at the cost of $10,000, for the accommodation of a steward, students, and a room for the Grammar School, thereby affording to parents and guardians the choice of boarding at the Commons, or in respectable private families in the city, who are now taking boys at $100 a year. The tuition varies from $2 to $50 according to the classes. Having given this brief account of the College, I may be permitted to urge upon the citizens of Maryland, the propriety and necessity of encouraging this State Institution, both as an object of policy, and State pride. It will add much to the prosperity of the city, which is sufficiently large to ensure from the students respect for the public opinion, but not so populous as to hide the vices of youth; and secure to the State the enviable distinction of educating at home, her youth who are destined to become her legislators, jurists, divines, and the sons of Esculapius, with this important advantage, that it will keep in circulation among her own citizens the thousands of dollars annually sent to other States for collegiate education. Another great and unspeakable advantage is that the youth designed for the bar, pulpit, and the legislative halls, will periodically have the opportunity of listening to the debates of the Legislature, the arguments of the able and eminent council of the State in the Court of appeals and Chancery, and the most necessary of all the eloquent and pious *divines* who reside in or occasionally visit the city. It is made the duty of the students to attend prayers in the College daily, and such places of worship as may be directed by their parents or guardians, as there are no religious preferences allowed. I give you this short sketch hoping it may attract the attention of the public and be mutually a benefit to them and the College.

From the New York Commercial of Thursday

FIRE AT THE CITY HOTEL.

HALF-PAST 12 o'clock

We have just returned from witnessing a most imposing and grand, though terrific spectacle. At about 10 o'clock this morning, the alarm of fire was given, and persisted in with much diligence as to render it certain that there was a serious fire. Shortly afterwards we were informed that the City Hotel—a vast structure, as all the world knows, occupying the whole block west of Broadway, between Cedar and Thames streets, was in flames. We repaired immediately to the scene of the calamity, and were so fortunate as to secure a view from an upper story, nearly opposite.

The news that this splendid edifice, long known and universally popular, as one of the best hotels in the country, was on fire, created very great interest, and the streets in the neighbourhood, were crowded with multitudinous thousands, before the engines could be brought up for action; and when they did successively arrive, although every exertion within human power, was made, yet from the great height of the building, and from the circumstance that the fire commenced in the attick, it was a long time before they could be brought to play upon the destructive element.

The accident is said to have been occasioned by some defect in one of the chimneys. The smoke was first observed from the street issuing apparently from some crevices between the bricks of the Southern gable, but no alarm was then given; and even some considerable time afterwards, when the smoke was seen issuing from the upper windows and ornaments, in large volumes, it was not supposed that any serious consequences would ensue. The alarm, however, was now given, and in a few moments afterwards the flames burst forth with great fury—having thus, before the arrival of the engines, attained a power which it was difficult to arrest.

A few moments after we became spectators of the scene, an incident occurred of painful and thrilling interest. In an attempt to check the progress of the fire, two individuals, one of whom, we believe, was Mr. Jennings, the keeper of the hotel himself, had ascended to the upper story, immediately under the roof, and before they were aware of their danger the flames invested them on every side, and precluded their descent by the stair case. The building was so high that no ladder could be raised to relieve them, nor even a rope long enough to throw a rope by which they might descend. In this perilous situation—on the verge of the roof, and the raging element making frightful advances towards them, who had for some time the melancholy prospect of being crushed by the fall of the burning timbers around them, or of perishing in the flames. Long ladders were solicited; but for some moments all exertions to reach them were in vain, as the ladders could not be raised to the cornice, and the persons confined were upon the roof, which was burning around them—having emerged through a garman window. At this perilous moment, when hope had almost fled, A young man by an extraordinary effort, threw a rope from one