

FOR THE AMERICAN.

Messrs Pechin and Frailey, By giving the following which originally appeared in the American of March 1863, a place in your paper previous to the election, you will oblige Yours, &c.

A SUBSCRIBER.

March 7th, 1863. CITY COUNCIL, 2nd BRANCH.

George Prestman, Esq. President, pro tem.

The following resolution was reported by a committee appointed on that part of the mayor's message which calls their attention to a certain bill that was introduced into the legislature of the state, during their last session, to make some alterations in our charter; viz: "The committee to whom was referred that part of the mayor's message which relates to the contemplated alterations of the charter by act of assembly, beg leave to submit the following resolution."

Resolved, By the first and second branches of the city council of Baltimore, that so far as it has come to their knowledge, the present charter of incorporation meets with the approbation of a large majority of the citizens of Baltimore, and that any attempt to alter the said charter without the consent of the citizens fully and fairly obtained or expressed in their corporate capacity, is unjustifiable and improper; and that the mayor be requested to prepare a memorial and sign the same, on behalf of the corporation to the next general assembly of Maryland, against the passage of any law making alterations in the said charter without the consent of the corporation.

GEORGE PRESTMAN, ANDREW BOCHANAN, PHILIP MOORE, Esqs. COMMITTEE.

In 2d branch the same being read, and by special order read a second time, was agreed to—adjourned till to-morrow afternoon 3 o'clock.

Owing to the impressions that so extraordinary & novel a report would naturally create on a mind habituated to these reflections, which go to the prejudice of the honor and integrity, by constantly retracting the first and fundamental principles of a free government, the yeas and nays on the above resolution were neglected to be called for.—they nevertheless stand thus:

Affirmative. Negative.

George Prestman, Cumberland Dugan, Henry Payson, Thordick Chase, Philip Moore, Andrew Buchanan, Christopher Johnson—6.

It is well worthy of remark in this place that the member for the eighth ward was a conspicuous petitioner and it is left with those who have the gift of reconciling contradictions and inconsistencies to tender their congratulations.

March 11, 1st BRANCH.

On taking up the above resolution—it was deemed expedient to read the document's accompanying it—which consisted of a bill introduced into the legislature purporting to be amendments to the present charter, and a petition sent by a numerous and respectable body of the inhabitants of this city praying for the same; which when read it was moved by Mr. Simpson and seconded, that the name of the subscribers should be read—this was done accordingly, when on the second reading of the resolution, Mr. Tenant rose and proposed the following amendments to the resolution: to strike out the words after the word "obtained" to the word "is"; it was seconded by Mr. Williams and with a trifling debate, agreed to.

Mr. Tenant moved to strike out at the end of the resolution the words, "without the consent of the corporation" which being seconded, it prevailed with a slight opposition, on the part of Mr. Inloes, on the ground of incorrect reading.

Mr. Shaeffer, declared that on this important question he could not give a silent vote. That he could not say, that as far as it had come to his knowledge, that the charter was agreeable to a large majority of the people. He had made little or no enquiry on the subject, which probably was the case with most gentlemen; but what information he had received was all in reverse—there appeared to be a general dissatisfaction.

Mr. Simpson said he did not wish to go to his house to ascertain a matter that appeared to him to be already fixed. It is well known that there are in the city 32,000 people, the peti-

tion is signed by 4 or 500 persons—now nothing is more certain than that those persons form a great minority of the 32,000—and we know how influential men will obtain signatures by cajolings, threats and every possible means to carry their measures into effect; so that it may well be doubted whether the present signatures have been fairly obtained. He was prepared for the question.

Shall this resolution as amended pass? nine yeas in the affirmative, and seven in the negative—and so it passed in the affirmative. The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Shrim.

Yeas. Messrs. Jessop, Warfield, Williams, Smith, Kent, Simpson, Hawkins, Tenant, Inloes—9. Nays. Messrs. Reberg, Shaeffer, Shrim, Miller, Mockenheimer, Shaw, Mundell—7.

2nd BRANCH. March 11

George Prestman, Esq. president pro tem.

A message was received from the 1st Branch informing that they concur in the resolution on the subject of the alterations of the charter with amendments as follow, to wit: to strike out the words after the word "obtained" to the word "is"; and to strike out at the end of the resolution, the words "without the consent of the corporation."

This branch concurred in the said amendment by the same vote that passed it the 7th instant.

REMARKS.

There is a mystery in the resolution as it came from the 2d branch, that the first could not be brought to comprehension, and which those amendments go to destroy—for the resolution itself was predicated on an opinion taken up, that the charter has become a second compact between the mayor and city council, on the one part, and the legislature of the state on the other part, which by its binding power either may cancel or without the consent of the citizens. The doctrine might very well have prevailed those days when high in a social principles were in vogue, it possibly might have been the intention of the party which palmed the charter on us; but those deceptions are rapidly passing away, and reason and genuine republicanism prevails in our land. It is true that charters in days of old, when the feudal system was the basis of the European world did proceed from the territorial lords as a means of grace, to the miserable serfs, whereby they acknowledged the transfer of specified privileges to them and their successors for a particular remuneration, as the ransom of their freedom paid to the donor and his successors forever; in this case there is a bargain and sale of particular specified rights on the one part, and a relinquishment of claim to those rights on the other part; and certain stipulations as the price thereof; it became a sacred contract and could not be altered but by mutual consent—not so with our charter, it is an act emanating from the legislature for the particular benefit of the citizens of Baltimore, and not for the individuals we chose to carry the chartered honors into effect in their corporate capacity; they have no other claim than that it is a rule for them to observe in legislation, and in no case can they exceed the limits prescribed by it.

The petition is founded on the expression of the organic powers of the charter which has disfranchised nine tenths of the free holders of the city, and which opens a door for the reception of particular characters into one of its important branches, who have not the confidence of the people—and indeed, in some instances, for the reception of those that have been rejected at the polls. The petition is also founded on the oppression of the people by the heavy taxes constantly imposed on them for the raising a revenue that is also absorbed in the payment of extravagant salaries, and the maintenance of useless officers. Were we to refrain from petitioning the higher powers, until the authors of our grievances should with a manly firmness come forward on your behalf—that day most surely would never come.

STENOGRAPHICUS.

FOR THE AMERICAN. A CARD—TO MATHEW BROWN.

THERE cannot be a greater proof of the utility of ward meetings, than the course attempted to be cast on them by you, as editor of the Federal Gazette, whose political principles with the all-powerful talent of 1859, certainly qualify you for a situation more elevated and deserving of a better cause; (for a worse one you could not be engaged in.)—The very expiring groan of torism has evaporated, and the body now left in a state of putrefaction, while you, an animalcule, generated from its putrescence, attempt a vegetative existence for the malicious gratification of a few designing characters.

If truth were to guide your pen, thou champion of the Tory cause, why not aim, capable, the pivot man of your party, attend at your post, and through your goggles of green, view your opponents, while your division could wheel as situation or exigency required. But perhaps you possessed too much

federal politeness, or was it the mark of the beast on your forehead that deterred you from attending. A federal leader to intrude into a room where he had no pretensions to a seat! As well might a man who was convicted of usurp attempt to negotiate business on change as for a character like yours to intrude among republicans—it would be like the devil with the gown and cassock of a clergyman; and surely it is not a federal meaphor, being a loser by the comparison.

It often happens that the very means taken by the vicious to carry a favorite object, generally, have an opposite tendency; therefore praise from a channel so polluted as your paper, would be censure in disguise; your intentions become favorable for your country, though intended to have a contrary effect.

Before you again take up your polluted pen to animadvert on the rights of citizens, reflect whom you attack, and as an editor of a paper, engrossing a patronage which you have a right to be grateful for, let the peaceable conduct of the citizens of this ward and their professions alone, otherwise you will find, adopting your own style, you have "got the wrong sow by the ear."

A Citizen of the Second Ward.

FOR THE AMERICAN.

CALUMNY REFUTED.

To the Voters of Baltimore.

THAT the enemies of our old Republicanism (Thomas Dixon and Cumberland Dugan) are active in circulating false and malicious reports concerning them is no secret—they state that last session these gentlemen voted against the Law for the turnpike road, which is malicious and false. Any persons desirous of obtaining the truth can easily be satisfied. I therefore live themselves the trouble to look over the votes and proceedings of the last session, they will find Messrs. Dixon and Dugan recommended in your favor of the said turnpike law was carried in the House of Representatives with great opposition when it was over to the senate it was rejected by that august body; the charge you can have no fault to find with your own representatives on that score—you have any fault to find you must look among the senate, who rejected the law that the house of representatives passed, and that Cumberland Dugan and Thomas Dixon voted for the same.

TRUTH.

FOR THE AMERICAN.

To the Voters of the Sixth Ward, FELLOW CITIZENS,

PERMIT me to call your attention to the importance of the ensuing election for members of the city council. There are matters connected therewith wherein you are very materially concerned. An amendment to the charter of our city has been submitted by the legislature of this state, at their last session, to you for your consideration, and on which you are to decide your election of persons as members of the first branch of the city council, & if approved by them, it becomes the supreme law of the city. It therefore behooves each of you, as well as the citizens at large, carefully to examine the consequences that may and probably will ensue under the amendment if adopted; & when minutely considered carefully to select such persons as will support your interest as indicated by party motives. As to my part I am not anxious as to which party my interest is committed, if such men are selected as are known to be men of principle, whose interest is connected with mine, as therein is my security for a faithful performance of their duty.

That the present charter of the city admits of amendments, no one will undertake to deny; but I am not for alteration unless benefits can be obtained by the means proposed.

As a republican, I am clearly of opinion that all officers ought to hold their offices amenable to the people, and consequently am in favour of popular elections; but the obligation should be reciprocal between the elector and elected; and if a man, when elected to an office, conducts himself with propriety and integrity, he should be continued in his place and not be liable to be dismissed for trifling causes. What inducement is there for a man of principle to quit his occupation to accept an office under the corporation?

That the present amendment does not guarantee this, but actually prohibits & disqualifies a man from holding an office without being charged with a breach of the law, and thus infringes upon the liberties of the people. For, in the fourth section it is there explicitly declared, "that the mayor shall not continue longer than three years in office," though the citizens should believe him to be the most capable person to fill it. If this is republicanism I do not understand the meaning of the word—this is, agreeably to Mr. Morris, "guarding against our worst enemies, ourselves." I would ask what man of ability and integrity would relinquish his profession or calling to take this office, when he considers that neither the faithful discharge of his duties nor the approbation of his conduct by the citizens generally, can contribute towards his re-election. Thus we compel ourselves to put men in office, who

have never been tried and reject those who have served us faithfully.

The amendment goes on further, and in the fifth section, after describing the mode of election, declares, "that they shall elect in each ward two persons to represent them in the first branch of the city council, and the persons so elected shall be residents of the ward from which they are elected and shall have the same qualifications in every respect as delegates to the general assembly." Now what are those qualifications? They are two hundred pounds real or personal property in this state. I would ask you, my fellow citizens, would you, knowing the different interest of the city and the natural propensity in man to wish well to himself and connexions, I say, would you like a man in your ward, whose property lay west of Howard street, to represent you in the council, or a man who had no real property at all, but what is in bank or insurance stock? I anticipate an answer—no.

The amendment goes on still further, and in the ninth section says, "that the first and second branch of the city council shall in the first week of their annual session, by this joint ballot, recommend two persons to each office now existing or which may arise under any ordinance of the said corporation; and the mayor shall commission one of the persons so recommended to fill the respective offices during one year." I would enquire where is the responsibility of such officers? He is commissioned for one year, and if he inclines to do wrong, (and I hardly think any others under such precarious circumstances would ever relinquish his business to take an office,) who is to call him to an account?—But it is inconsistent in itself for how can the council nominate in the first week of their session, persons to fill an office that may be found necessary to be created in their third or fourth week of session?

This far I have thought proper to go as to the present proposed amendment; and I am confident if you see the thing in the same light with me, you will not sanction, by your votes, any person that will palm upon you such an inconsistent, unjustifiable, and send men to your councils who will reject it and who will assist you in procuring such amendment as shall be found beneficial to the city.

I observed in the American of yesterday, an account of a meeting of our ward, and an assertion of an unanimous resolve of a respectable number of said ward, to support such men as will promote the adoption of the amendment. My fellow citizens be not deceived by such publications—they are calculated to deceive and are supported by persons for private purposes—and for the support of my assertion you need only to refer to the notice calling a meeting of the sixth ward; and if an unanimous vote had been given would it have been surprising when none were invited to attend but such as were favorable to the amendment—but the fact was not so, for I know there was a very powerful opposition given to the amendment, and even the chairman himself was decidedly opposed to it.

I shall now take the liberty of nominating such persons whose word has been pledged that, if elected, they will serve and oppose with their vote and influence the proposed amendment as injurious to the interests of the city. The men that I would propose are, John Mockenheimer and John Miller as members of the first branch, and Christian Myers as elector for mayor and second branch, who will be supported by such as are well wishers to the interest of our ward, unconnected with party or private views.

A REPUBLICAN

Of the Sixth Ward.

Balt. September 27.

SALEM, September 21.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY OVERGROWTH!

Captain Andrews, who arrived yesterday from Eckwarden, brings news of a political nature, but has furnished us with the following description of a child, of most uncommon bulk, whom he saw in Oldenburg. It was a girl, in the 6th year of her age. She weighed 165 pounds English weight; her height was 4 feet 2 inches; she measured round the waist 4 feet 1 inch; the circumference of her head was 2 feet 4 inches; just above her waist, 11 inches round; the calf of her leg, 1 foot 5 inches. It was with great difficulty she could walk across the room, and appeared to be very much distressed for breath; and her frame seemed scarcely able to sustain such a load of flesh. Her mother was a very small woman, and has had several children. She said that a gentleman had offered her 1500l. sterling, for the loan of the child, for a twelve month, to carry to England, as a sight. She had been carried to Hamburg and Bremen, with her mother, and exhibited in those cities. The above description may be depended upon, as Captain Andrews was so struck with her appearance that he was at the trouble of taking the dimensions himself.

NEW-YORK, September 25.

Captain Wilson, who arrived last evening from Barcelona informs, that on the

27th of July, he left general Moreau and lady at that place, on their way to America.—The general made application to captain Wilson for a passage in the Bellora, but his cabin was not sufficiently commodious. He was informed at Gibraltar, on the 10th of August, that the general and lady, had arrived at Cadix, where they were soon to embark for America.

Saturday last being the anniversary of the coronation of his Britannic majesty, his majesty's ships of war the Cambrian and Leander were dressed as usual on such occasions. The royal standard of Great Britain at the main, and the colors of the United States of America at the fore top mast head. A royal salute was fired at one o'clock from the ships.—The colors of every nation were displayed, with the exception of those of France, and the second post of honor given to those of America.—Both ships made a very handsome appearance.

Unfortunate Occurrence.—On Thursday the 13th inst says the Troy paper, an unfortunate occurrence took place at the new bridge, now erecting across the river opposite Waterford. As a boat, heavy laden with stone, was passing from the shore towards one of the abutments, she filled and sunk. There were in the boat nine men, one of whom (a foreigner and native of Wales, by the name of Howell) was drowned. His corpse was found, just below this village on Sunday. His wife, with two children, whom he had left in Europe, expecting them to follow him, arrived here the very day on which his lifeless body was taken from its watery grave!

Fifty one deaths occurred in this city for the last week, ending last Saturday evening, of the following diseases:

Cholera morbus 1, consumption 11, convulsions 2, croup 1, debility 2, dropsy 1, dysentery 1, bilious fever 1, nervous fever 1, typhus fever 1, flux 12, hives 1, old age 1, scrophula or king's evil 1, small pox 2, spine 1, still born 1, sudden death 1, teething 3. 15 men, 7 women, 15 boys and 14 girls.

TRENTON, September 24.

We are informed that on Saturday the 15th inst, in the neighborhood of New Hope, Pennsylvania, a man, by name Job Quimby, put an end to his temporal existence by hanging himself. He had fastened the two ends of a rope to a peg which joined the collar beam to the rafter, and putting his neck in the noose thus formed, and leaning his weight upon the rope, had effected his death. He is supposed to have been intoxicated at the time of committing the dreadful deed.

PHILADELPHIA, September 25.

LITERARY INFORMATION.

"TURNER'S ARTS"—A new and improved edition of "Turner's easy introduction to the Arts and Sciences," will be published by William Duane, early in October.

The merits of this work, it is presumed, have been for some time known to the instructors of American youth—as a large edition printed in Dublin, has been rapidly sold and extensively circulated throughout the Union.

Patrimony is solicited for the first American edition. The Publisher has spared no pains or expense to add improvements, and to render the work peculiarly adapted to the situation and circumstances of, and mode of instruction practised throughout, the United States.

CHARLESTON, September 25.

The schooner Phoebe, captain Baker, from St. Mary's, fell the first of the gale on Friday last, off Tybee, and put back to St. Andrew's, where, having run up a small creek, several of the passengers went ashore to procure stock, and shelter themselves from the storm. After proceeding about a mile and a half, they got themselves comfortably housed; but the gale increasing, and apprehensive of the house falling, they retreated among the bushes, where they remained several hours, exposed to the fury of the tempest.—On returning in the evening, they found the roof torn from the house and carried some distance; and the body of the building fallen in; having procured a few blankets they got under the roof, where they passed the night; and in the morning, contrary to expectation, found the schooner had rode out the gale without damage.

The schooner Pluto, capt. Bradshaw, of Boston, from Havanna, encountered the gale on Friday morning, in lat. 31—lay to all that night, and on Saturday morning about 8 o'clock, was thrown on her beam ends, in which situation she remained upwards of an hour; having with difficulty cut away her masts, her bowsprit being carried away, and the decks completely cleared, the schooner righted.—About two leagues to the southward of the bar, fell in with the schooner Phoebe, from St. Mary's, which towed her into port yesterday afternoon.

The schooner Betsey, captain Grant, sailed ten days ago from this port for the West Indies, and on Friday, in lat. 30, long. 78, in the Gulf Stream, encountered the late gale, just as she was under way, and her foremast and bowsprit, with the sails carried away. Capt. Grant saw a schooner yesterday to the northward of the bar, which he took to be the Aurora, which left this port ten days ago for Bayona—the captain's foremast,