

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, D E C E M B E R 16, 1784.

The following is the Draught of a proposed Act, submitted to public consideration, for founding a college on the western shore of this State, and for constituting the same, together with Washington college on the eastern shore, into one university, by the name of

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND.

WHEREAS institutions for the liberal education of youth in the principles of virtue, knowledge and useful literature are of the highest benefit to society, in order to raise up and perpetuate a succession of able and honest men for discharging the various offices and duties of life both civil and religious, with usefulness and reputation, and such institutions of learning have accordingly been promoted and encouraged by the wisest and best regulated states:

And whereas it has been represented to this general assembly by that they are earnestly desirous to promote the founding of a college or seminary of general learning on the western shore of this state; and for that good purpose have subscribed and procured subscriptions to a considerable amount, and are well assured of obtaining very general subscriptions and contributions throughout the different counties of the said western shore, if they were made capable in law to receive and apply the same towards founding a college upon such salutary plan, and with such future legislative assistance, as the general assembly in their great wisdom and liberality may think fit; and have therefore prayed, that the present favourable season of peace and prosperity may be embraced for making a beginning of this good work, and that a law may be passed accordingly.

Now this general assembly taking the premises into their serious consideration, and being desirous to promote and encourage all useful knowledge and literature through every part of this state, have agreed to enact, and be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,

First, That the said intended college shall be founded and maintained for ever upon the most liberal and catholic plan for the benefit of the youth of every religious denomination, who shall be freely admitted to equal privileges and advantages of education and to all the literary honours of the college according to their merit, without requiring or enforcing any religious or civil test or urging their attendance upon any particular religious worship or service, other than what they have been educated in, or have the consent and approbation of their parents or guardians to attend; nor shall any preference be given in the choice of a principal, vice-principal, or any professor or matter in the said college on a religious score; but merely on account of his literary and other necessary qualifications to fill the place, for which he is chosen.

Secondly, There shall be a subscription opened in the different counties of the western shore for founding the said college; and the several subscribers shall class themselves according to their respective inclinations; and for every thousand pounds, which may be subscribed and secured to be paid into the hands of the treasurer of the western shore, by any particular class of subscribers, they shall be entitled to the choice of one person, as a visitor and governor of the said college.

Thirdly, When any of the first visitors and governors, chosen by the subscribers as aforesaid, shall die, or remove out of the state; or absent himself from four succeeding quarterly meetings, without such excuse or plea of necessary absence, as shall be deemed reasonable by a legal and just quorum of the said visitors and governors duly assembled at a quarterly visitation of the said college; such quorum so assembled, shall proceed by a new election to fill up the seat and place of such deceased, removed, or absenting member.

Be it further enacted, That the reverend John Carroll, William Smith, D. D. and Patrick Allison, D. D. together with Richard Sprigg, John Steret, and George Digges, Esquires, be agents for soliciting and receiving, and they are hereby authorized and made capable to solicit and receive contributions and subscriptions for the said intended college or seminary of universal learning, of any person or persons, who may be willing to promote so good a design; and when any classes of subscribers shall have subscribed and secured to be paid as aforesaid, to the treasurer of the western shore, in three equal yearly payments, to commence from the first day of June 1785, the sum of one thousand pounds; and shall have deposited or lodged their original subscription papers in the hands of any one of the agents aforesaid, such agent shall take a copy of the same, and shall deposit the original subscription lists with the said treasurer, taking his receipt for the same; and such agent shall then appoint a time and place for the said class of subscribers to meet and choose one person as a visitor and governor of the college, agreeably to the foregoing fundamental articles, and shall cause six weeks notice of the time and place of such election to be given in the Annapolis and Baltimore newspapers; and shall attend, at the time and place of such election, with a complete list of the subscribers; such election, with a complete list of the subscribers; such persons having subscribed nine pounds or upwards shall be entitled to free suffrage for one person as a visitor and governor, according as he may be classed; but shall not be entitled to vote for another visitor and governor among any other class and denomination of subscribers, unless he shall have made a second subscription of nine pounds or upwards in the said class, by and with their approbation.

And be it enacted, That when thirteen visitors and governors shall be chosen as aforesaid, the said agents, or any three of them, shall cause six weeks notice to be given in the Maryland newspapers, appointing a time and place for the said visitors and governors to meet and take upon them the discharge of their trust; and the said thirteen visitors and governors, and such persons as may be afterwards added to their number by any new elections, made as aforesaid, by subscribers of a thousand pounds, within three years after the first of June 1785; and their successors duly chosen according to the tenor hereof, shall be and are hereby declared to be one community, corporation, and body politic, to have continuance for ever, by the name of

provided nevertheless, that the whole number of visitors and governors of the said college shall never at any time be more than twenty-four, nor less than thirteen, seven of whom shall always have their usual residence within twelve miles of the said college; and provided further, that in three years from the first day of June 1785, there shall not be twenty-four visitors and governors chosen as aforesaid by classes of subscribers of one thousand pounds, each class; the other visitors and governors being not less than eleven duly assembled at any quarterly visitation, shall proceed by election to fill up the number of twenty-four visitors and governors, as they shall think most expedient and convenient; provided nevertheless, that seventeen of the said visitors and governors shall always be residents on the western shore of this state, but that the additional visitors and governors (to make up and perpetuate the number of twenty-four) may be chosen from this or any part of the adjacent states, if they are such persons as can reasonably undertake to attend the quarterly visitations, and are thought capable, by their particular learnings, weight, and character, to advance the interest and reputation of the said seminary.

And be it enacted, That the said thirteen or more visitors and governors shall have full power and authority to call for and receive, out of the hands of the treasurer of the western shore, all such subscription papers and monies, as may have been deposited with him, or may in any wise have come into his custody and keeping for the founding and carrying on the said intended college; and to appoint their own treasurer, who shall give sufficient security for the faithful discharge of his trust, and shall thereafter have the care and custody of all such subscription papers and sums of money, as may have been collected thereon; and the receiving and keeping of all outstanding subscriptions, subject to the order of the said visitors and governors. And the said thirteen or more visitors and governors shall, at their first meeting, or at some other meeting within one month thereafter, fix and determine upon some proper place or situation on the said western shore for erecting the said college, which determination shall be by a majority of the whole number of visitors and governors so met, such number being in the whole not less than thirteen; and if such majority shall not, or will not, within one month after the first meeting as aforesaid, agree upon any one place or situation for the said college, it shall be left for the general assembly of this state, at their first ensuing session, to determine upon the place for building the said college, upon the application of any three or more of the said visitors and governors, setting forth, that they could not agree on the premises. And a complete list of the subscriptions for founding the said college shall at the same time be laid before the general assembly.

The remaining clauses of the proposed Charter or Act of Incorporation are not thought necessary to be published, they being only of common form, and the same as in the act of the general assembly for the establishment of Washington college, viz.—Power to sue and be sued—to have a common seal—to constitute a faculty, viz. Principal, vice principal, professors, and tutors—to hold quarterly and other meetings for the making laws, examination of the students, and the ordinary government of the college, conferring degrees and other literary honours, &c.

N. B. By the title of the act above proposed, the idea is held forth of a future union of the two COLLEGES, as one UNIVERSITY. This is to be done by common consent, and is founded on the following clause in the charter of Washington college, viz.

"That it might tend most to the advancement of literature in this state, if the inhabitants of each shore were left to consult their own convenience in founding a college, &c. for themselves, under the sanction of law; which two colleges, if thought most conducive to the advancement of learning, religion, and good government, may afterwards by common consent, when duly founded and endowed, be united under one supreme legislative and visitatorial jurisdiction, as distinct branches or members of the same STATE UNIVERSITY, notwithstanding their distance of situation."

The senate or meeting of the university, for a general government, would consist of a representative body from both colleges, to meet alternately in each college from the commencement day, with the governor of the state, as chancellor of the meeting; and to exercise such jurisdiction as might be agreed upon by both colleges, for increasing a connexion, and cultivating uniformity in manners and literature, between the two shores, as members or branches of the same commonwealth.

This senate or general body might also have the superintending care of the county schools, commonly called free schools, and the power of erecting such of them, as they may think proper, into academies or colleges, subordinate to the two mother colleges on each shore, for the common benefit of those counties which may be too remote to derive such immediate benefit, as they might wish, from either of the colleges.

Annapolis, December 3, 1784.

AT a meeting of many of the gentlemen concerned in promoting this undertaking, it was ordered as follows:

That the reverend John Carroll, William Smith, D. D. and Patrick Allison, D. D. together with Richard Sprigg, John Steret, and George Digges, Esquires, be a committee to complete the heads of a bill for founding a college on the western shore, and to publish the same immediately, with a proper preamble for taking in subscriptions; and that they, and such persons as they, or any two of them, shall appoint in the different counties of this shore, proceed immediately to take up subscriptions, upon the plan to be published as aforesaid.

WE whose names are hereunto subscribed, approving the liberal principles upon which, by the foregoing plan, a college is proposed to be founded on the western shore of this state, and desirous to promote the speedy execution of the same, for the benefit of our country, DO hereby promise to pay, or cause to be paid, into the hands of the treasurer of the western shore, or any person appointed by him, or to the visitors and governors of the said college, when they shall be duly authorized to receive the same, the sums annexed by us to our respective names, to be applied towards founding and carrying on the said college; which sums so subscribed we bind ourselves severally, our heirs, executors, and administrators, to pay in three different instalments or payments, viz. one third part of the sum subscribed, to be paid on the first day of June 1785, another third part on the first day of June 1786, and the remainder on the first day of June 1787; provided that no essential alteration be made in the proposed draught of the law aforesaid.

B O S T O N, November 24.

WE learn by captain Roberts, in the ship Lydia, who lately arrived here from Bourdeaux, that on his outward passage, the 21st of May last, in latitude 34, 23. north, longitude 71. 20. he discovered the wreck of a white bottomed brigantine, her bowes only above water, from which they saw a small figure head, newly painted. By which it appears to have been the brigantine Lively, captain Chourot, that sailed from this port, for Port-au-Prince the 12th of April last. It is probable the crew and several passengers that were on board, must all have perished, as they never have been heard off.

N E W P O R T, November 13.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of distinction in a neighbouring state, to his friend in this city.

"Our assembly is now sitting, where we have again taken into consideration the necessity of carrying into effect the continental impost; and after a large discussion of the subject, have this day passed a bill enabling congress to collect an impost, if twelve states agree; provided they annually require a payment from the non-agreeing state, of their proportion of the sum, within the year, according to their ability within such year.

"This you will say is designed for Rhode-Island; it is true; and we conceive it is just, that every state which does not agree to defray the expences of the war from a general treasury, should be precluded from any particular advantages from a sister state to aid them in payment of their taxes. It is clearly the opinion of this assembly, upon this measure's being adopted by twelve states, to lay such imposts on every importation from the non-agreeing state, as will prevent any advantage from the consumption of their merchandise by our citizens; in which case, leaving such state to import for their own consumption, merely, we do not apprehend we shall suffer from a refusal of the impost. We still adhere to our system adopted last May, and we are endeavouring by other regulations to build ourselves up."

H A R T F O R D, November 16.

The general assembly of this state at their present session, have passed an act for granting the continental impost, whenever twelve of the United States shall have adopted it.

Died at her house in East-Hartford, the 8th instant, in the 87th year of her age, Mrs. Esther Pitkin, relict of the honorable Oziab Pitkin, Esq; who was the son of the honorable William Pitkin, Esq; the first of the family in New-England; he departed this life December 16, 1694. Mrs. Esther Pitkin is now deceased, at the time of her death, stood in the relation of parent, grand-parent, and great-grand-