

agree upon a division, or in case any person entitled to any part be a minor, in order to obtain a division of the estate, the purchaser or purchasers, heir or heirs, may effect the same agreeably to the directions and provisions of the act to which this is a supplement.

And be it enacted, That in all cases where the commissioners appointed, or hereafter to be appointed, under the said act, shall determine that the estate cannot be divided without loss to all the parties, and the court shall confirm their return, the person making an election to take the estate at the valuation of the commissioners, at the time of making the election shall severally give bonds, with two or more sufficient securities, to be approved by the court in which the proceedings shall be had, to the other person or persons entitled to the said estate, for their several proportions of the sum of money at which the said estate is valued, which bonds shall bear interest from the date of the said election, and shall be made payable in such instalments as the court shall direct.

And be it enacted, That if any person or persons entitled to make election to take the estate of any intestate as aforesaid, shall be absent from the county at the time when such election ought to be made, the court shall pass an order, to be published in some convenient newspaper at least four weeks successively, giving notice of the return and confirmation of the commission, and appointing some day in the term next succeeding that in which the said order shall be passed, for such absent person to appear in court, and make his or her election as aforesaid; and on proof being made to the satisfaction of the court of the due publication as aforesaid, and on the non-appearance of the person so absent as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for the person next entitled, to come in and make election in the same manner as if the person so absent had appeared and refused to take the estate at the valuation of the commissioners.

And be it enacted, That if any person or persons entitled to make election as aforesaid shall be an idiot, non compos mentis, deaf and dumb, or otherwise disqualified to declare his or her intention, in such case the person next entitled shall be authorized to make his or her election, in the same manner as if the person disqualified as aforesaid had refused to make election as aforesaid.

And be it enacted, That when any person entitled shall elect to take the estate at the valuation of the commissioners, or when all refuse, and the same shall be sold under the direction of the court, and bonds taken for the payment of the purchase money, the bonds so taken shall remain and be a lien on the lands for the purchase of which they were given, until the said bonds shall be wholly paid.

And be it enacted, That in all cases where an election hath been made under the act to which this is a further additional supplement by the husband in right of his wife, and the valuation of the land of the said intestate hath been paid, or secured to be paid, unto the heir or heirs of the deceased by the person or persons so electing, the commissioners, or a majority of them, or the survivors or survivor of them, shall, under the direction of the court to which the return or returns shall have been made, make and execute to the person so electing, at his expense, a good and valid deed of bargain and sale in fee-simple.

An act relating to runaway servants and slaves.

BE it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be the duty of the Sheriffs of the several counties of this State, and they are hereby respectively required and directed, upon any runaway servant or slave being committed to his custody, to cause the same to be advertised in some public newspaper or papers printed in the city of Baltimore, the city of Washington, and the town of Easton, and in such other public manner as he shall think proper, within fifteen days after such commitment, and to make particular and minute description of the clothing, person and bodily marks, of such runaway.

And be it enacted, That if the owner or owners, or some person in his, her or their behalf, shall not apply for such runaway within the space of sixty days from the time of advertising as aforesaid, and pay, or secure to be paid, all such legal costs and charges as have accrued by reason of apprehending, imprisoning and advertising such servant or slave, it shall be the duty of such sheriff, and he is hereby required and directed, to proceed to sell such servant or slave, and immediately to give public notice by advertisements, to be set up at the court-house door and such other public places as he shall think proper, in the county where such servant or slave is in custody, of the time and place for sale of such servant or slave, by him to be appointed, not less than twenty days after the time limited as aforesaid has expired, and at such time and place shall proceed to sell and dispose of such servant or slave to the highest bidder.

And be it enacted, That the sheriff shall, under the penalty of fifty dollars for every such offence, make out, on oath, and return to the justices of the levy court, at their next session after the sale of any servant or slave, an account, rating the time of the commitment, the time of sale, the name of the purchaser and terms of sale, and the expences and costs of advertising, securing and keeping, and the amount for which such servant or slave has been sold, and out of the money arising from such sale to retain the amount of such costs and charges as he is by law entitled to, and no more, and the balance, if any, to be paid to the justices of the levy court, who are hereby authorized and directed to pay the same to the owner of such servant or slave, if such owner shall apply for it within two years from the time of such sale, and

if it shall not be applied for within two years as aforesaid, then the money so paid to the levy court shall be applied to the use of the county; provided, that any servant or slave sold as aforesaid shall not be carried or transported out of this State until after two years have elapsed from the time of such sale, and any person or persons who shall carry, or cause to be carried out of this State, within the time limited as aforesaid, any such servant or slave, shall incur and be subject to the like penalties as persons are who shall transport or carry any free negro out of this State.

And be it enacted, That if any sheriff shall refuse or neglect to comply with the directions of this act, he shall for every such refusal or neglect, forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars.

And be it enacted, That an act, entitled, A supplement to the act relating to servants and slaves, passed May session, seventeen hundred and nineteen, and an act, entitled, An act to restrain the ill practices of sheriffs, and to direct their conduct respecting runaways, passed November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, be and they are hereby severally repealed.

FOR THE MARYLAND GAZETTE.

The Critic—No. II.

Mos est hominum.

'Tis the fashion of the times.

Cit.

IT has always been considered as true, and I believe denied by none, that nothing is more fickle than the mind of a woman. Mankind in general have been upbraided with it, but it certainly must be admitted by all that the female sex possess in a greater degree this quality; their minds are always vacillating—never ten minutes the same—and the Critic takes the liberty of comparing them to a weather-cock, for like it they veer round with every fashionable gale. These upon whom Nature has lavished the most unparalleled beauty, and all the accomplishments, I might almost say, necessary to constitute an angel, cannot remain contented with the bountiful gifts of Providence. Vain, conceited and affected, they conceive they see through the microscope of fancy some defect which can be remedied by their own hands; if by art they could supply what has been unbestowed by nature. Various have been the methods, and many their attempts, to add new beauty to themselves, and there is no part upon which there has been spent more trouble, and the dress of which has undergone more alteration, than the head. Some few years back it was adorned with a plain muslin turban, or simple straw bonnet; then again the hair was curled and stuck with fer combs, which added to the dazzling lustre emitted from their eyes. All these modes the Critic very much admired—but when he comes to consider the fashion of the present day, he is ready to exclaim "O Tempora! O mores!" A wig, the hair of which is perhaps taken from the head of some of our deceased forefathers, is now the ton; not a lady can enter an assembly without one; if she does she is immediately saluted by twenty different mouths. "Why where's your wig to-night? You're out of the fashion and might as well be dead! Do pray retire directly, you'll be the laughing stock of the whole room!" This conversation I myself have heard, and have also seen ladies adjusting their false heads in company, owing to their dislocation by a blast of wind, which is a sight extremely disgusting. It is unaccountable how this absurd fashion crept into existence, and how polluted the taste of those must be who hide the beautiful locks of Nature by what is styled a frizette. I have always thought that the purpose for which wigs were invented was to cover the baldness occasioned by old age, but never till lately heard of their being used as a dress for ladies. Many absurd fashions have been in vogue, but none half so ridiculous as this. The thinnets of attire with which the fair are now adorned is to be sure astonishing and wonderful; for it certainly is an undeniable truth that the shape may be very distinctly seen through it. One dimity petticoat, with a muslin gown, is all that defends them from the rigid blast of winter. I will not undertake to assert it as a truth, but the Triller furnishes, they must call in the assistance of a pair of flannel drawers. I happened in company a few evenings past, and I trust I shall be pardoned for my ignorance, when I confessed that through mistake I took up part of a lady's dress under the conviction of its being a handkerchief. This was owing to a fashion which is also in being, and which operates considerably in favour of merchants and pedlars; for what would formerly make a whole gown, would now scarcely be sufficient to complete what is called a trail. My error originated in this manner; a lady, wishing to change her seat, rose to cross the room, this trail, as it is called, was at the distance of two or three yards behind; thinking it impossible it could be part of her dress, I immediately took it up under that impression; discovering my mistake, I was considerably embarrassed, and casting my eyes around I saw those of the whole company fixed upon me—never did confusion gain a greater ascendancy over any one; I remained riveted to the spot, unable to move, and plainly could I feel the crimson flood flow my heart and endeavour to find vent through the pores of my cheeks—the young lady, in consequence of whose dress this mistake happened; perceiving my confused situation, informed me it was a matter of no consequence, which gave me some relief against the contending passions which agitated my whole frame. Thus we see that foolish fashions not only subject their practitioners to ridicule and derision, but oftentimes lead into disagreeable embarrassments unwary and innocent persons. It is an old saying, and I believe a very true one, that "experientia docet nulla." This in some things I myself have witnessed, and that *experientia docet multa* I can readily answer for myself, for the Triller is determined in future never through motives of politeness, or any other motive, to subject himself to a like situation by interfering with any part of a lady's dress.

I saw a very curious letter, some time past, from a lady to her acquaintance, which proves beyond a possibility of controversy, as I have said, that nothing is more fickle than a female's mind. Its singularity I think entitles it to a place in the second number of the Triller.

Dear Falsidia,
I suppose you intend going to Mrs Spark's to-night—I cannot. Almost overcome by passion, I can scarce hold my pen while I inform you of the dreadful accident I have met with. My wig was elegantly curled by the barber, and I promised myself much pleasure this evening in wearing it. My white muslin gown, you know, is not quite in the fashion, it wants a few more yards to the tail of it. I first intended wearing that, but then again thought I would wear my feathered silk. I tried it on but did not think I became it. Here I was placed in a dreadful dilemma; one was not sufficiently in the fashion, the other not becoming. What was to be done? Not caring what expence to incur in decorating my person and appearing to the best advantage, willing to

captivate the heart of some fair beau, I walked to a hair-dresser and requested to see some of their finest muffs—the gentleman handed some down as he thought very fine and beautiful, but you can't paint to yourself my astonishment when I saw them, and understood the price was only six dollars a yard. I immediately left the room, with information that they would not suit me, and were not such as I had been accustomed to wear. I then went to another store and desired to see some of their fashions of a superior quality. One piece struck my fancy, which I determined to purchase, the hair-dresser informing me it was only fourteen dollars a yard, which I thought a very moderate price. It was immediately cut off, and from thence I made the best of my way to the mantuamaker's—I arrived there about eleven o'clock, and as I wished to have it finished against the next evening, I obtained the faithful promise of the sempstress, to that effect. I waited in the most patient manner until the next evening, when I wished every moment to see it come home, but in vain. Not being able any longer to refrain my impatience, I sent the servant down to know why it was not brought. In a few minutes my maid returned and informed me it was impossible I could have it that evening; that owing to the neglect of the maker, and an unfortunate slip of scissors, a piece had been cut out of the most conspicuous part of the body. Upon this information I was convulsed with anger; nothing could appease me; and thus owing to my fickleness, (which you know my dear Falsidia is a failing to which all our sex is subject,) in not being content with one of my own dresses, because it only wanted a few yards to make it in the height of the fashion, I was reduced to the disagreeable necessity of remaining at home, the pleasure of seeing you I also lost—and now comes your my valedict, and my terry I gave way to it.

Your's, IMPRUDENTIA.

NATCHEZ, January 9.

Mississippi Legislature.

Wednesday, January 3, 1803.

Resolved, by the legislative council and house of representatives of the Mississippi Territory, in general assembly convened,

That it is expedient for this legislature to express their sentiments respecting the discontinuance of the place of deposit for American Merchandises and effects at the port of New-Orleans.

Resolved, That the governor of this territory be requested to forward the following memorial to be by him presented to the president, senate, and house of representatives of the United States.

MEMORIAL

Of the legislative council and house of representatives, of the Mississippi territory, To the president, senate, and house of representatives of the United States.

Your memorialists beg leave to express their feelings and sentiments relative to an event, by which the interests of western America in general, and of this territory in particular, are materially affected. While the treaty of San Lorenzo et Real secured the free navigation of the Mississippi, and a convenient place of deposit for the merchandises and effects of American traders, it politically incorporated this country as a part of the United States. Under this auspicious change, we saw our trade flourishing, our property arising rapidly in value, and we felicitated ourselves in being the free and happy citizens of an independent republic.—Reposing in national faith for a continual observation of stipulated privileges we had indulged the sanguine expectation, that this state of prosperity would not have been soon interrupted.

The motives which may have influenced the Spanish government, to withhold from us a place of deposit, are a subject of conjecture; but no doubt can exist as to the act itself being a direct infraction of our treaty with that nation.

A recent order by the government of Louisiana, prohibiting all intercourse between the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Spain, has considerably increased the embarrassment upon our trade, and breathes a spirit of still greater enmity to the United States.

Your memorialists, conscious of the wisdom, justice and equity of the general government, rest assured that no succour will be withholden which existing circumstances may require; and so far as may depend on us, WE TENDER TO OUR COUNTRY OUR LIVES AND FORTUNES, in support of such measures as congress may deem necessary, to vindicate the honour and protect the interest of the United States.

(Signed)

WILLIAM G. FORMAN,

Speaker of the house of representatives.

JOHN ELLIS,

President of the council.

Attest,

FELIX HUGHES,

Secretary to the council.

CHARLESTON, February 2.

A report is in circulation, on the authority, it is said, of a French gentleman lately arrived in this city, that a large fleet of French men of war, with a number of workmen and labourers on board, are on their way to the river St. Mary's, to cut timber for building ships, and to form a dock yard on the Florida bank of that river. It is added, that the Floridas have been ceded by Spain to France, and that the cession took place at the same time with that of Louisiana. We are getting into a warm situation. With such a neighbour as France on our western and on our southern boundaries, are not our prospects of peace and security doubtful?—What is our present doing? Is England blind? Or has fate itself turned the lists on the side of France against the world? From the same quarter we understand, that transports laden with refractory negroes from St. Domingo, are to come to America and land their contents on the river St. Mary's. [Continued.]