

Extract of a letter from a Citizen of Kent county, dated January 8, 1819.

I am particularly gratified at the course pursued by our federal friends, in resisting every effort to increase the political influence of Baltimore. The means proposed by the leaders of the democratic party to insure the ascendancy of Baltimore, are most insidious, and peculiarly well calculated to deceive the honest and unsuspecting nature of the county people: but I rejoice to discover a course of strictures published in the Gazette at Annapolis, admirably calculated to remove the veil artfully drawn, and to expose naked, the destructive tendency of their measures. This thing should be continued, and the honest hearts and good sense of the people, will not fail to defeat all their deceitful and pernicious schemes. & bring down on the heads of those projectors of mischief, the severe chastisement of their indignation and contempt. Should Mr. Worthington's bill for the election of a governor by the people pass, the feeble voice of Kent would scarcely be heard as a whisper amidst the noisy acclamations of the people of Baltimore; and as for Calvert, she might as well be blotted from the map. Surely no madness of party can ever induce the citizens of the smaller counties to yield up their weight and influence in the government of the state. And to whom is this surrender to be made? To the people of Baltimore—constituted as all tongues, "black spirits, and grey spirits." Nothing but the actual happening of the fact can convince me that it is possible.

If the people, particularly the democrats, would read and ponder well on that excellent fable of Esop, of the "Horse and the Bear," it could not fail of having a good effect.

For the Maryland Gazette. CONVERSATIONS OF MY LANDLADY. No. 3.

My worthy Landlady, though fond of reading, had not quite so much leisure time as many of her sex. She therefore endeavoured to make the most of her time, and generally read valuable books. She endeavoured also to read them in the best way, and to treasure up in her memory every thing that would be useful in life. She read as much as she could read, upon many subjects, not indeed to make a display, to get the character of a learned woman, but to qualify her to be useful and instructive. She had thought too a great deal upon the best way of reading, and would sometimes endeavour to account for it, that many who gained knowledge, were not at the same time so fortunate as to gain wisdom by their reading; and that so many read without being edified or interested by their readings. Some of her conversations upon these subjects, it is designed to throw together, for the consideration of those who choose to bestow any consideration upon them.

Speaking of the hindrances with which ladies sometimes meet, and the little leisure which domestic occupations might leave them for study, she said, "I would not require them to withdraw one moment of their time from any useful household occupation, or to deprive themselves of necessary amusement and exercise; on the contrary, I require this as essential to the improvement of their minds. I would not ask them to read a great deal in the course of the day; but that, upon what they read they should meditate, compare it with their previous notions, and endeavour to ascertain what accessions are made to their intellectual stores. Now, this may be done while they are occupied about the concerns of the house. It ought ever to be borne in mind, that reading alone will not make us wise. We must endeavour to find out, not only what is true, but the value of each truth, and the use which is to be made of it. If we read much, and yet do not talk, or write, or think, as we ought, about what we read, the memory may be loaded, but every other faculty of the mind will be uncultivated, and of course injured. Hence it is, that those who have great knowledge have most commonly very little wisdom. That person who can make more use of one idea, than another can of three, will, with one-third of the knowledge, always be, and

is never to be contented the wisest person. By covering, and writing about what we read, our minds discover the progress which they are making, acquire increased confidence in themselves, and are enabled to make a more firm and confident application of their powers."

She always insisted, that nothing can be well done without method. In reading, it was all important to have method, to read with attention while we are reading, and not to read more at a time than we can fix in the memory. Every mind, she would say, must be injured by that rambling sort of reading, which it has been observed, looks at every thing, and sticks to nothing. The mind was made for great things, and ought not to be overloaded with trifles. Those who read with any thing like method, although they may be able to devote but a small portion of each day to reading, and reflection upon what they read, may, in a little time, make wonderful additions to their stock of wisdom.

There are many ways of perplexing and unsettling the mind, and preventing it from being satisfied. The mind, itself, even the best mind, may be so abused, as to be unfitted immediately for any serious and especially severe investigation; and nothing is so apt to bring it to this unhappy state, as constant, by passing from one subject to another, reading many things and nothing long. It is in this way that the best minds may become suspicious of themselves, and be made to distrust, and almost dissent from their own decisions, incapable of being entirely satisfied on the subject to which they are applied, neither absolutely rejecting, nor absolutely admitting any truth. Hence the perplexity and uneasiness which many endure. "The human mind feels restless and dissatisfied, under the anxieties of ignorance or doubt, and longs for the repose of conviction." How unhappy then must it feel, while upon any subject of moment: it is not allowed to obtain the most entire conviction; it is allowed to listen to objections to the truth, but is not allowed to examine them, and does not know whether it believes or rejects them. Hence one great source of scepticism, which she considered as almost synonymous to credulity. She always, upon such occasions, repeated with great satisfaction, the character of a sceptic, which was given by Dr. Earle: "A sceptic in religion, is one that hangs in the balance, with all sorts of opinions, whereof not one but stirs him, and none sways him. He is a man guiltier of credulity than he is taken to be, for it is out of his belief of every thing that he believes nothing. Each religion scares him from its contrary; none persuades him to itself. He would be wholly a christian, but that he is something of an Atheist; and wholly an Atheist, but that he is partly a christian; and a perfect heretic, but there are so many to distract him. He finds reason in all opinions—truth in none. Indeed, the least reason perplexes him, and the best will not satisfy him. He finds doubts and scruples better than he resolves them; and is always too hard for himself." When the mind, she used to say, was brought by injudicious treatment to this unhappy state, the only way in which it can be recovered, is by an entire change of its habits, and subjecting it for a time to severe discipline. It should be "disciplined into an entire submission to evidence;" it should be taught to bring, to the investigation of every important subject, a degree of humility which knows its own ignorance and weakness, and will dispose it to surrender itself to legitimate conclusions, however offensive they may be to its prejudices, and at the same time a degree of intrepidity which can resist all influence but that of truth. It should be taught what is the province of reason, the extent and limits of human knowledge; the nature of evidence, and its various kinds, and the nature, dignity and meanness, of such beings as ourselves. This knowledge, she said, was soon to be acquired, and when acquired, the mind will never again, on any subject, be brought into a state of much uneasiness and perplexity.

No knowledge, she always argued, was so valuable as the knowledge of ourselves. Those who are ignorant of themselves must be perpetually in danger of exposing that ignorance to all around them, and of becoming the dupes of the more cunning and artful. Self-ignorance is one great source of all our errors,

indiscretions, and foolish opinions. Without self-knowledge, a woman will always be accomplishing some part for which she is not designed, and neglecting those talents which she really possesses. When this is the case, whatever real talents and excellencies she may possess, she will get no credit for them; and by assuming to be, what she really is not, will expose herself to ridicule, mortification and self-reproach. Having already given to my readers enough of the old Lady's conversation on these subjects, I must reserve for another number such further remarks, connected with them, as may be thought worthy of their attention. A.

For the Maryland Gazette.

Mr. Kell, a delegate from Baltimore, it appears, has asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill giving an additional number of representatives to that city. I cannot venture to predict what will be the fate of the bill, when it comes to be acted upon in the house of delegates; but I think I may with much confidence assert, that it is intended, should it pass, as the pioneer of many other measures, the object of all of which will be the elevation of Baltimore, and the depression of all the minor counties in the state. Some intimation of the designs and intentions of the democratic party, or rather of the demomrats of the city of Baltimore should they succeed in the next senatorial election, has already leaked out. A disclosure of these shall be made in due season. At present I must confine myself to the proposition of Mr. Kell, which is the first link in the chain of a series of encroachments, designed for the subjugation of the smaller counties. Much has been said in the Baltimore democratic prints, and no doubt will be repeated on the floor of the House of Delegates, of the injustice done to Baltimore by the present system of representation: It has been pronounced a most shameful violation of the principles of justice, that the small county of Calvert, with a population perhaps not exceeding 8000 persons, should be entitled to send a greater number of representatives than the city of Baltimore, which contains upwards of 60,000 inhabitants. This argument in the abstract, appears very specious and plausible; but it is no difficult matter to shew its utter futility. Baltimore has no right to complain of the present system of representation—She enjoys many great and distinguished advantages of which no other section of the state can boast. She possesses a local legislature, invested with powers almost supreme and amply sufficient for every purpose which may relate to the promotion of the prosperity of the city; or its internal government. The power of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, so far as it respects the limits of their jurisdiction, are but little inferior to those of the state legislature itself—Their influence, and the extent of their patronage, so far as it regards the city of Baltimore, are vastly superior.

Possessed then of advantages such as these, are not two representatives from Baltimore amply sufficient for the transaction of all her business which may require the interposition of the legislature? But it has been said, that Baltimore does not possess that weight and influence, in the management of the general affairs of the state, which she is entitled to from the magnitude of her population, her wealth, and her importance. This assertion has been most satisfactorily refuted by experience. Baltimore has always possessed, and ever will possess, a greater degree of influence in the state government, than any other section of the state. Every member of the legislature may, with truth be said, to be the representative of Baltimore, and devoted to her interests; but this cannot be said with regard to any other portion of the state. Has not her influence been manifested in all the transactions of the Government? Has she not received her full proportion of the appointments within its gift? Did she not furnish the late Governor? Has she not one member in the Executive, and two in the Senate? Is not the Attorney General one of her citizens? In the distribution of the public money has not the largest proportion of it been always expended in Baltimore? Has any part of it been appropriated to the promotion of the agricultural interest? Has not the constitution guaranteed to her the privilege of sending two representatives

to Congress? If the incidents of Baltimore, has already affected all this, and much more which might be mentioned, what might she not do, was her influence increased by giving to her an additional number of representatives? She would soon feel power, and forget flight. This measure, the tendency of which is to prepare the way for the subjugation of the smaller counties, to destroy the little influence they now possess, and to bring them under the domination of Baltimore, cannot will receive, from the representatives of the agricultural interest, without any regard to party views or feelings, that decided and determined opposition, which will at once be decisive of its fate.

JUSTICE.

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Saturday, Jan. 9.

A few days since the house adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That the members of the Assembly, and the officers attached thereto, shall not be allowed pay during the recess."

This day the senate returned their resolution, endorsed "dissent from"—with the following message: "Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate are not aware of any law or practice which authorises the members of the general assembly to receive compensation during the recess of the assembly. It has been, so far as the senate are informed on the subject, an universal practice to fix the period for which the members are entitled to compensation, by the journal of accounts, which always receives the sanction of both branches of the legislature, and no member is entitled to, or can receive, compensation beyond the time allowed in the journal of accounts. The senate cannot therefore perceive any reason for assenting to a resolution, providing that the members of the assembly, and the officers attached thereto, shall not be allowed pay during the recess; this proposition is undoubtedly true, but as it has never been denied, nor is in danger of being contravened, the senate can see no reason for passing a resolution which will be productive of no practical result. The senate therefore cannot doubt, but that your honourable house will, upon further consideration, concur in the propriety of abstaining from passing a resolution, which simply prohibits the members of the legislature from receiving compensation in the recess of the legislature, which never has been, and probably never will be attempted. Under these impressions, the senate respectfully return herewith the resolution of the house of delegates of yesterday, with their dissent.

The senate, in communicating their dissent to the resolution, for the reasons before stated, cannot however, but highly appreciate the motive which they supposed induced your honourable body to pass the resolution. A solicitude to relieve the public treasury was, no doubt, the motive. And to accomplish this desirable object, the senate are willing to concur with you in making a reasonable reduction of the per diem allowance of the members of the general assembly.

By order, R. HARWOOD, Clk.

That the construction of the senate is correct, that a "recess" of the legislature means the time that intervenes between the close of one session, and the commencement of another, is obvious by reference to the 19th, 29th, and 41st articles of the constitution of the state. The temporary suspension of a session after it commences, is called an adjournment. There can be no doubt the senate knew perfectly well what the house intended, but they also knew the resolution was not in any manner calculated to effectuate that intention. That even should the resolution be adopted by them, no member would have been prevented from receiving his per diem during the Christmas adjournment. It will be recollected, that the senate had no power to modify or alter the resolution, so as to meet their own views. They could only act on it as it was presented to them, and either pass or reject it, without a amendment or change. Had the senate have possessed the power of amendment, they no doubt would have so modified the resolution as to have shewn their own views. To exclude the clerks, sergeant at arms, and door keepers, of their per diem

during the late adjournment, not only be void, but unnecessary, the dignity and character of the State. They had no concern in the adjournment, and many of them were here in attendance during the whole time of the adjournment. It would be equally unjust to deprive the members, the remittance of whose residence prevented their return home, and who attended during the adjournment. But as to those members who voted for the adjournment, and who returned home, or might have returned home, there is no reason in depriving them of their per diem. However the question may be decided, there can be no doubt this adjournment will be the most expensive one that ever occurred in Maryland. There has been much said here about the expenses per diem, as occurred in connection about the compensation law. The members are rivaling each other in the race of popularity. The chicane necessary to render a patriot of the first order, is to see five forty dollars. Is not this a scrub race? We are to have several more half dozen forty dollar tributes, and therefore most enlightened and disinterested statesmen.

Monday, Jan. 11.

The bill to establish a bank in Allegany, was read a second time, and negatived. Upon motion of Mr. Harrison, the house agreed to consider their decision, and on motion of Mr. S. Thomas the further consideration of the bill was postponed. The report of the lottery commissioners concludes with the following interesting paragraph: "That the state will receive from the tax on lottery prizes the amount of 100,325 dollars, as follows: viz. From the Medical College lottery, 11,250 dollars; Surgical Institution, 18,000; Masonic Hall, 15,000; University, 50,000; Havre-de-Grace, 6,075.

And that the whole expense of carrying the lottery law into execution will not amount to the sum seven thousand dollars the present year!"

Petitions presented to the House of Delegates.

Tuesday, Jan. 5.

From Samuel Ury and Daniel Klin, that the name of Samuel Ury may be changed to Kim. From Zillah Sapp for a divorce. From Benjamin Lawrence and Susan his wife for the sale of the real estate of said Susan. From Robert Gorsuch, for relief: time to complete his collections. From the trustees of St. Peter's free school, in the city of Baltimore, for further time to pay a debt due by them to the state. From the board of examiners of pilots, that the right of license may be confined to citizens of the state, and for an increase of fees. From Joseph Allender, that the state's right to the land escheated by him as the property of David Tyler may be released. From the Baltimore & Harford turnpike road company, that the privilege of passing the gates toll free on the Sabbath, or at any other time, may be abolished. From Barbara Sheppard and Eleanor Buell, to be divorced. From sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, for a bridge over Meredith's Falls. From Rebecca Howard, that a deed from Charles G. Dorsey to Wm. Shipley may be confirmed. From Charles Yegar, an alien, that his title to real property may be confirmed. From Robert Dols, that he may hold real property. From John Walker, a revolutionary soldier. From the master, wardens and brethren, of ancient York Masons, in Union town, after it commences, from George Bradshaw, for a divorce. From the members of the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Church in the city of Baltimore, to incorporate the female orphanal school. From sundry inhabitants of Durham Parish, in Charles county, for pecuniary aid and an act of incorporation. From Francis Adams, for a support. From Margaret Sprucebanks, for a divorce. From Nelson Reed, agent of the Maryland Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, praying they may be authorized to hold the property devised by John Cuninghan to them. From Jesse Wright, praying he may be permitted to import a slave. From the stockholders in the Deaton Bridge company, for an increase of the toll. From Joseph Darden, for a special act of insolvency. From Samuel Steyer, jr. praying that the division

Friday, Jan. 8.

From Wm. M'Queen, that John Queen, an alien, may be authorized to hold real property. From John Gassaway, for the payment of a balance due him for services as adjutant general. From punctoy Bayly, a revolutionary soldier. From Charles Sewall, to be funded money paid to the state land to which he has no title. From Rachel Weems, that she may be entitled to a right of dower in certain land. From Thos. Wright and Robert Wright, of Queen Anne's county, and Henry Darden, the city of Baltimore, securities Samuel T. Wright, praying further time to pay a debt due by him to the state. From sundry citizens of Eastern Point, in Talbot county, a law to prevent swine from being at large on said point. From the Falls Turnpike Company, counter to the petition of Thos. John-

the real estate of Robert May, deceased, may be confirmed. From sundry inhabitants of Harford county, that the location of the Baltimore and Harford county turnpike road company, as made by the commission, may be confirmed; and from Wm. Richardson and Joseph Bond on the same subject. From Joseph Gill, that a suit against him in Honour and Sarah Gill may be discontinued in Baltimore county court. From sundry inhabitants of Port Tobacco, for a law to authorize the conveying of water by pipes from the mount spring to the public square in said town. From sundry inhabitants of St. Mary's county, for an increase of the allowance of jurors. From Elizabeth Robertson, Margaret Scott and Eleanor Wood, of St. Mary's county, praying for support. From sundry inhabitants of Dorchester and Caroline counties, that the practice of setting edges across the North West branch of Nanticoke river, may be prohibited. From sundry inhabitants of Harford county, counter to the petition for straightening the road from the Roman Catholic Church towards the White House. From Mary Ann Hera, for a divorce.

Wednesday, Jan. 6.

From Francis E. Monks, for a special act of insolvency. From John Smith, a revolutionary soldier. From Elizabeth Mason, for a support. From Thophilus Russell, for a divorce. From the mechanics of Baltimore, that they may have an on houses built by them, to secure the payment for materials and workmanship. From the president and directors of the Painters Bank in Prince-George's county, for a explanatory of certain parts of their charter. From Wm. Hackler, for a special act of insolvency. From sundry inhabitants of Queen Anne's county, that obstructions to the navigation of Chester river may be permitted. From sundry inhabitants of the first election district in Baltimore county, that the place of holding the election may be changed. From Elizabeth Stogrow, for a divorce. From sundry members of the bar, and other inhabitants of Baltimore, that the allowance of the judges of the orphan's court of Baltimore county may be increased. From the president, managers, &c. of the Westminster Quay-town & Emmittsburg turnpike company, to be authorized to receive toll for passengers over Monocacy bridge. From James Simpson, an alien, praying he may hold real property. From Jacob Michael, for compensation for ammunition furnished the militia during the late war. From sundry inhabitants of Anne-Arundel county, for alterations in the constitution relative to the choice of governor and council and electors of the state. From Levin Craig, that he may be authorized to convey to John Smith, certain land. From John Stouffer for the confirmation of her and her children, of the property of her deceased husband. From Samuel Owings, of R. that he may be authorized to convey certain property. From Joseph Holland, a revolutionary soldier.

Thursday, Jan. 7.

From the justices of the orphan's court of Washington county, for an increase of allowance. From sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, against building a court-house. From Anthony Davis, a revolutionary soldier. From John Drown, for a divorce. From Thos. Johnson, that a law may pass to enforce the payment of debts due by the Falls Turnpike Road company.

Friday, Jan. 8.

From Wm. M'Queen, that John Queen, an alien, may be authorized to hold real property. From John Gassaway, for the payment of a balance due him for services as adjutant general. From punctoy Bayly, a revolutionary soldier. From Charles Sewall, to be funded money paid to the state land to which he has no title. From Rachel Weems, that she may be entitled to a right of dower in certain land. From Thos. Wright and Robert Wright, of Queen Anne's county, and Henry Darden, the city of Baltimore, securities Samuel T. Wright, praying further time to pay a debt due by him to the state. From sundry citizens of Eastern Point, in Talbot county, a law to prevent swine from being at large on said point. From the Falls Turnpike Company, counter to the petition of Thos. John-

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