

The feelings of the two brothers when introduced to each other through an interpreter, after a separation of 25 years, is a theme for a finer pen than mine.

It seems that the name of John Taylor, had through some mistake in the soul, been taken for the Indians or John Tanner, which is his proper name.

There is the strong family resemblance, both in the person and features of these two brothers—and although they cannot converse with each other except through an interpreter, they look upon and act towards each other with the most ardent fraternal affection.

The man of the woods, who indeed has nothing of the savage wildness and ferocity in his appearance is now going to New Madrid, to remain with his friends this winter, under the promise that his brother is to go with him next season, to the Runy Lake for his family, which consists of a wife and seven children. He is clad in citizen's apparel, and is remarkably clean in his person; of rosy, manly appearance; temperate habits; drinks no ardent spirits. Although the Chippewa is his natural tongue, he can converse in all the languages of almost all of the northern tribes—and if he should succeed in learning the English language, as he no doubt will soon, he may hereafter be of great service to the American government.

LEGISLATURE OF NEW-YORK.

I. Assembly—January 22.
Report of the Comptroller & Judges of the Supreme Court.
To the Honourable the Legislature of the state of New-York, in Senate and Assembly convened.
The Comptroller and Judges of the Supreme Court respectfully report:
That in pursuance of the concurrent resolution of the Legislature at the last session, they have reviewed those branches of the statute law which were submitted to their consideration.

The insolvent act of this state, and its supplementary provisions have been examined with care and attention. It was one of the subjects of which they were requested to prepare and report "such amendments as they might deem expedient." But after much reflection bestowed upon the system, they have not been able to suggest any essential amendments.

The first general insolvent act was passed in 1784 and alterations and amendments have from time to time been made under the experience and wisdom of the Legislature, until the system has attained nearly or quite as much consistency, provision and improvement, as the nature of the subject admits. By the act of 1833, every insolvent debtor is required to make application for relief within the county in which he may be an inhabitant or be imprisoned, and the Chancellor and Judges have consequently had little or no personal experience for several years past, of the operation of the act. It appears to them not to be susceptible of any material alteration for the better. And judging from their former experience, and from public observation in the course of their judicial duties, they are of opinion that the insolvent law is the source of a great deal of fraud and perjury. But they are apprehensive that the evil is incurable, and not within the reach of amendments to the act, since it arises principally from the infirmity inherent in every such system, and, perhaps, in many cases, also from a want of sufficient vigilance and firmness in the persons to whom the administration of this branch of the law is committed.

If we had a suitable bankrupt law, applicable to unfortunate merchants and traders, there would be little necessity and still less utility, in any general and permanent insolvent law. It appears to be a serious question in the federal courts, whether the establishment of bankrupt and insolvent laws does not belong exclusively to the government of the United States, and the authority given to it to establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcy. Perhaps the better opinion is, that the state governments may exercise powers of this kind in the absence of congressional regulations. We are at least of opinion that state insolvent laws, when they do not infringe on another provision in the constitution respecting the obligation of contracts, are constitutional and valid, and if we have the power we should deem it inexpedient at re-

sent, to attempt the establishment of any thing like a bankrupt system for this state. A bill on that subject has been reported to congress during the present session, and is now pending before them, and we cannot but indulge the hope, that congress will perceive the importance, and feel the necessity, of exercising on this point the powers entrusted to them by the constitution.

There is no doubt but the commercial interests of this state stand greatly in need of a bankrupt system, which would prevent the debtor in failing circumstances, from disposing of his property partially among his creditors, or from fraudulently converting it to his own use. The operation of such a system, if honestly and ably administered, would naturally inculcate a correct sense of the obligation of contracts, and of the duty of good faith. But a permanent insolvent act, made expressly for the relief of the debtor, and held up daily to his view and temptation, has a powerful tendency to render him heedless in the creation of debt, and careless as to payment. It induces him to place his hopes of relief rather in contrivance for a discharge than in increased and severe exertions to perform his duty.

Our insolvent system of law is intended, not merely for the discharge of the debtor from imprisonment, (for on that subject we have other and ample provision) but its main object is to settle him ever clear from his debts. There is, perhaps, no other state in the Union, which holds out such an easy and tempting mode of procuring an absolute release to the debtor, and we are of opinion, that the system in its operation has been, and still is, and probably ever must be, from the very nature of it, productive of innumerable abuses, fraud and perjury, and greatly injurious to the public morals.

Under the head of inquiry submitted to us, relative to provision for the better security of creditors against the frauds of debtors, we would respectfully submit as the result of our reflections and judgment, the propriety of repealing the insolvent act, with all its supplementary provisions and amendments.

The next subject submitted to our consideration relates to such legal provision as we may think proper, relative to imprisonment or debt.

We have carefully examined the several provisions already existing for the relief of debtors with respect to the imprisonment of their persons, and very little further improvement can be made upon this head, provided imprisonment for debt is to be in any degree retained. And we should rather prefer in the language of the resolution, under which we have considered the subject, that a total abolition of imprisonment for debt was not within the contemplation of the Legislature, & it would be a measure which we could not recommend.

The object of imprisonment is to coerce the debtor to pay his debts by property within his command, and which cannot be discovered or reached by execution. Another useful object of imprisonment is the check which it is calculated by its influence to give to the artful or thoughtless creation of debt, without any means or disposition to pay. The frauds upon property which are daily and almost incessantly committing in this way are equally immoral and distressing with the more open or direct invasions of property by acts of a criminal nature. And without such means of coercion, as personal imprisonment, it would appear to us, that persons who had no fixed residence, or had no visible or tangible property, or whose property was exempt from execution, or whose property consisted in money, or bonds, notes & public or corporate stock, or whose property lay out of the state, would be entirely lawless, without any power in the creditor to obtain justice. Considering how very convenient or accommodating imprisonment has been rendered to the debtor, by means of the liberties of gaols; and considering that persons who are not freeholders, & charged with small debts, cannot in any case be imprisoned above 30 or 60 days, & that every person charged in execution for debt, under \$500 may immediately thereafter, and if for any sum above \$500 may after the expiration of three calendar months, apply and be discharged from imprisonment, on the surrender of his property for the payment of his debts; and considering further, that necessary household fur-

niture, together with a necessary portion of live stock, and the produce thereof, is absolutely exempted from execution, we think we may safely say, that there is as little ground for complaint of the severity of our existing laws in regard to debtors, as in any state, or in any commercial country upon earth.

It appears to us, as far as our observation and experience have extended, that imprisonment on execution for debt is not frequent, unless the debtor has applied his property unfairly, or refused to give to his creditor any reasonable and satisfactory explanation. If the cases were carefully examined, we believe, they would generally terminate in this result; for a severity towards fair but unfortunate creditors, is no part of the temper or disposition of the times. The security of debts and confidence in contracts, has been so much weakened in public opinion by the operation of our insolvent law, that it would seem to be the debtor, and not the creditor, who has at his command the hopes and fears, the comfort or distress of the adverse party.

And we are entirely of the opinion, that if it be once well known and generally understood, that those who contract debts must expect to pay them, or that they must be able to satisfy the creditor of their integrity and genuine misfortune, or that they will have to submit to the temporary restraints now imposed by law, and that no other relief was to be afforded, it would have a most salutary effect upon the morals and habits of the community.

We do not therefore perceive, that the law of imprisonment for debt requires any material amendment, and if we were to suggest any alteration, it would be to exempt females altogether from imprisonment, in consideration of their sex.

All which is respectfully submitted.

James Kent,
A. Spencer,
W. W. Van Ness,
Joseph C. Yates,
Joseph Platt,
Albany, Jan 22, 1819.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Annapolis, Thursday, Feb. 4.

In consequence of the scarcity of paper and the difficulty of procuring it at this season, the Gazette will be issued only once a week during the remainder of the session.

"Conversations of my Landlady" No. 6, is unavoidably postponed.

COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

Agreeably to notice, the Society Auxiliary to the "American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour," held their second annual meeting in the hall of the house of delegates, on Friday evening the 29th ultimo.

The president being absent, the honourable William Kilty, 1st vice president, was called to the chair.

The secretary read the report made by the board of managers to the American Society, at its late annual meeting.

Francis Scott Key, Esq. a delegate from the Parent Society, and the Rev. Ebenezer Burgess, agent of the said society, attended the meeting.

The former gentleman addressed the meeting in an eloquent and impressive manner; and the latter read many interesting extracts from a journal kept by his colleague the Rev. Mr. Mills, during their late tour in Africa. Mr. B. also exhibited to the meeting many curious specimens of African manufacture. The society then adjourned until Monday evening the 1st inst.

Monday, February 1, 1819.

The society met agreeably to adjournment. The honourable William Spencer, 3d vice president, presided.

The following gentlemen were appointed officers of the society for the ensuing year:

- President, J. T. Chase,
- 1st Vice-President, W. Kilty,
- 2d. Tho. Blackstone,
- 3d. Wm. Spencer,
- 4th Peter Emerson,
- 5th C. Dorsey,
- 6th Dr. Tho. Johnson,
- 7th Wm. Hayward,
- 8th James Murray,
- 9th Benjamin W. Lecompte,
- 10th John Moffit,
- 11th Wm. D. Digges,
- 12th Wm. R. Stuart,
- 13th Ephraim K. Wilson,

- 14th H. E. Taney,
 - 15th Charles S. Sewall,
 - 16th William Huguett,
 - 17th Thomas Kennedy,
 - 18th George C. Washington,
 - 19th James Tidball.
- A. C. Magruder, Secretary,
Jonathan Pinkney, Treasurer,
John Brewer, Recorder.

Board of Managers.

- Rev. H. L. Davis, Rev. Job Gist,
- H. Maynardier, Jeremiah Hugh S.,
- James Boyle, Fran. Hollingsworth,
- Daniel Murray, Virgil Maxcy,
- John Stephen, Nicholas J. Watkins,
- George Shaw, Dr. Dennis Claude.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the treasurer of the society pay over to F. S. Key, Esq. for the use of the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Colour of the U. States, all the money which may be in his hands.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the several vice-presidents of this society, to endeavour at the next county courts of the respective counties of this state, to originate sub-societies in furtherance of the objects of this institution.

Resolved, That this meeting duly appreciate the motives and objects of the American Colonization Society, and that the thanks of this meeting be presented to the president and managers of that society for their disinterested and useful exertions and services during the last year.

Resolved, That this meeting highly approve and will diligently exert itself in promoting the views of that society.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Rev. Ebenezer Burgess for his successful efforts at home and abroad in the service of the society.

The honourable H. M. Brackenridge, a delegate to the legislature from the city of Baltimore, addressed the meeting in an appropriate and interesting manner. Many new members were admitted into the society, and a considerable sum was subscribed in furtherance of the objects of its institution.

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

Friday, Jan 29.

Mr. Kell delivers the following resolution:

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to the directors of the Penitentiary, or their order, the sum of thirteen thousand seven hundred and forty-one dollars and eighteen cents, out of any unappropriated money in the treasury to reimburse the expenditure made by them in repairing that building when injured by fire.

PETITIONS.

From sundry inhabitants of Cecil county, counter to that for fixing the line between Harford and Cecil counties. From Sarah Tullard, of Montgomery, that the pension granted her late husband may be continued to her. From James Patten for a special act of insolvency. From James Cault, of Caroline, for a special act of insolvency. From Honore Martin, of Montgomery, for a law authorizing certain roads to be recorded. From Charles Elder and wife, of Annapolis, for the sale of the real estate of Elizabeth Howard. From Arthur Richard and others, of Dorchester, to convey a lot sold by Thos. Lockerman, deceased, from Margaret Bruff, of Baltimore, that the pension granted her deceased husband may be continued to her.

Mr. Kennedy reported favourably on the petition of David Palmore.

On motion of Mr. Lyng, the following message was assented to, and sent to the senate.

Being under the impression that the business before us may be acted upon by Saturday the 13th February next, we propose, therefore, with the concurrence of your house, to close the session on that day.

Mr. Kennedy reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore pay unto the following persons, or to their order, in quarterly payments, during their natural lives, the following pensions, v. z. To Christian Orndorff, the half pay of a captain, to Charles S. Wall the half pay of a lieutenant; to William Lewis the half pay of a sergeant; to Jacob Holland the half pay of a corporal of dragoons; and to Solomon Rawlings, Jacob Ho. John Newman, Thomas Bailey, Jonathan Mayhew, Thomas McQuinney, John Smith of Charles, John Aaron Simmons, John Bond, William Murphy, John B. Due, George Cato, George Joseph Holland, William John Walker, the half pay of a private.

As also a resolution, directed the treasurer to pay to Mrs. C. Courts, relict of Elizabeth Courts, the half pay of a private.

Monday, Feb. 1.
On motion of Mr. Lecompte to bring in a supplement to regulate lotteries.

Mr. Moffit presented the petition of Charles and Samuel Jones, of Cecil, stating, that they are Indians and naturalized, and asking they may be permitted to leave to bring in a supplement, an act to regulate the lottery.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the bill for the recovery of debts due to several banks in this state, and compel banks to pay specie notes, or correct their circulation.

On motion of Mr. Hinson, a question was put, That the bill for the words "any bank" be changed to "any bank or bank," pay an interest of "ten per centum." Determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Kell, the question was put, That the same be amended with "twelve per centum" determined in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Wilcox, the same was filed up with the "ten per centum."

On motion of Mr. Decker, the third section be amended, to read: "And be it enacted, That any bank neglecting or refusing to pay its debts shall pay interest at the rate of ten per centum, to commence from the time of demand of payment of particular debts, and neglect or refusal to pay." Resolved in the affirmative.

The further consideration of the bill was postponed until tomorrow.

Saturday, Jan. 30.
Mr. Lecompte reported a bill for duties on licences to retail spirituous liquors, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS.

From sundry citizens of Washington county, counter to that for a road from Smitonsburg to Boonborough. From the citizens of Williams-Port, and vicinity, a water company may be incorporated. From the president and directors of the Susquehanna Bank and Bank Company, that the charter may be authorized to subscribe for stock in said company. From sundry inhabitants of Westminster, that commissioners be appointed to lay out said town.

On motion of Mr. Kennedy, leave to bring in a bill to read into one the different oaths declared and subscriptions, required by the declaration of rights, constitution and form of government.

Mr. Harrison reported favourably on the petition of Margaret Bruff.

Mr. Kennedy from the committee of pensions & revolutionary claims delivers a report recommending that the prayer of the petition of Gassaway Pindell, James Cummins and Mountjoy Bay, ought not to be granted. Read and concurred with.

From the Alexandria Gazette.
FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT AT WASHINGTON.

Saturday, January 23.
Mr. Hopkinson, yesterday, delivered a speech upon the Seminole question, in the house of representatives, the excellence of which and the effect produced upon the mind and feelings, it might perhaps be enough to say that it attracted both for the weary waste through which I have been obliged to drag along my heavy steps, in company with prising and spouting and declamation run mad. Poulterers have a way of pairing chickens—a fat one and a lean one together, and I should have no objection to purchase some such speeches as I have heard on this point this session—Hopkinson's, Clays, Storrs, Mercer's, and Barbour's, for instance—if there were only in the proportion one less to one fat one of them—but I confess that when there are two or three poor to one plump, I would prefer declining the purchase, as being rather a bad bargain.

But while I thus praise the speech of Mr. Hopkinson, I doubt whether I would not act more prudently, to say nothing about it, than excite a curiosity which it is impossible for me to satisfy, and to sharpen your reader's appetites, when I have not the power to allay them; for to report a speech of four hours, all composed of facts and weighty matter, of which, to convey a just idea, one must give the whole, is an effort, you know, quite out of the compass of my power, and of course of my promise—for I do not often promise without performing.

He took grounds different from the others, and eminently dispassionate—in some things differing from, in others partly agreeing with gentlemen on both sides. He cautioned the house against suffering their generous feelings for any individual, to carry them away from a strict adherence to the constitution. Against all offences which came under the denomination military, he said, they ought to have all others, to be on their guard, and to check them as speedily as possible; for all nations have so much of a military propensity, and he feared that there was not a little of that creeping in among ourselves, which might be fatal, if kept within proper bounds, but otherwise would be mischievous.

Genius was in none dangerous but military commanders. The genius of Newton which enabled him to travel among the stars, and almost to have converse with his God, never gave pain. Stupendous and mighty as was the genius of Shakespeare, it never brought tears into the world, save those that were shed over fictitious woe. Military genius, some was nourished by blood. Let the country then take care and secure themselves against its being turned upon them. Mr. H. admitted the great services of gen. Jackson, but he hoped they would never be made a stepping stone to others beyond the bounds of prudence.

He then went at large into a discussion of the whole case, in which he argued that we were justified in entering Florida by the conduct of the Spanish government, in refusing a passage up the river Escambia, for provisions for our troops, who were almost famishing with want, an act unfriendly and hostile as to justify our entering, inasmuch as no injury could result to Spain while we was confined to us. This part of the affair was strictly warrantable on the plea of necessity—but on the same principle of necessity, our taking Pensacola was unjustifiable, because, the war was at an end, there existed no necessity to plant its justification.

On the subject of the Indians, Mr. Hopkinson displayed a sympathy for their sufferings, and a candour, in reproaching their wrongs, that did equal justice to his heart and his judgment. He deprecated the language used by the late towards Spain, as unbecoming and unbecoming:—"poor degraded wretch," and similar expressions; and cautioned gentlemen against indulging in those general expressions of contempt to a whole nation.

Gentlemen should recollect that there was a vast mass of morality, and that in Spain—causes of war against her might exist—but she would not have been so, but she would say, that it would not be a very comfortable one—there could be hard fighting, for the Spaniards possessed an inflexible obstinacy which was hard to overcome. No nation had borne up with so much fortitude under their oppressions. He could tell gentlemen that the day was when a Spanish soldier was every thing that was brave and noble—when her nights were every thing that were valourous and exalted. But where as it all fled? The mines of Mexico have extinguished it; and the farce brought in with their gold had subdued their spirits. Instead of indulging in unworthy expressions of contempt for their change, he exhorted those who did so, to take care that they were not themselves led by the same debasing passion to a situation as much below our present high standing in the world.

I add, for myself, by way of illustration, that our countrymen banker as much after the mines of Mexico as ever Spaniards did.

On the subject of Ambrister, Mr. Hopkinson was of opinion, that being found fighting among the Indians, his death was warranted, respecting Arbutnot, he observed, that if the right had been given by law to general Jackson, the question whether he had exercised it rigorously or not, lay between him and