

Saturday, February 11, 1825.

The bill to divorce Elisha Winn and Mary Winn, his wife, the bill respecting the new jail of Washington county; the bill for the relief of John Eckstine, and the bill to authorize Solomon Eiting of the city of Baltimore, to improve a lot on Pine-street in said city, were sent to the senate.

Mr. Barnes presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Frederick county, praying that the state will relinquish its portion of the escheat money on the estate of Wm. Travers, an alien, deceased; referred to Messrs. Barnes, Cockey and Sappington.

Mr. Montgomery obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to ascertain a standard for and to regulate weights and measures in this state. Ordered, That Messrs. Montgomery, Speed and Howard, report the same.

Mr. Boon presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Kent county, praying for the sale of the alms-house, and the purchase of a farm for the use of the poor; referred to Messrs. Boon, Welch and Wickes.

The bill to amend the constitution and form of government as it relates to the division of Somerset county into election districts. And the supplement to the act, entitled, A supplement to the act for the establishment and regulation of levy courts in the several counties of this state, were severally read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Monday, February 13, 1825. FLOUR INSPECTION IN BALTIMORE.

Mr. Howard delivers the following report: The committee to whom was referred the memorial from many millers farmers, and other citizens of Washington county, praying that the laws regulating the inspection of flour in the city of Baltimore may be changed, have had the same under consideration, and a minority of said committee beg leave to make the following report:

That there is no subject which is of more general interest to the people of the state, than the laws relating to the inspection of flour, and the principles which regulate the commercial dealings in the article; and the committee have been induced, from this circumstance, to give the matter referred to them that enlarged consideration which alone could enable them to present it fully to the notice of the house. The farmer, the miller, and the shipper, are all deeply concerned in the promotion of the same object, to wit, a high and uniform standard of inspection, which would keep up the character of Maryland flour in foreign ports, and thus enable the shippers, (the competition amongst whom must of course keep up the price,) to give to the farmer and miller that remuneration for their labour, which a steady and active demand in foreign countries can alone justify. In this state of things, the interests of all classes tending to the same point, it is a little remarkable, that there should exist among them such a diversity of opinion. It has been the object of the committee to attempt to trace the causes of this difference to their true source, and in this investigation they have endeavoured to free themselves from all improper prejudice, and build their conclusions upon official documents before them, or information upon which they can rely.

A few remarks upon the memorial from Washington county, which professes to develop the grounds of complaint against the existing system, seem properly to claim precedence in the examination of the subject.

An objection is made to the precarious tenure by which the inspectors of flour hold their commissions, on account of "the undemanded fact, that perhaps a majority composing the councils, are either engaged in the manufacture of flour, or in purchasing the article from wagons when made in the interior." It is not easy to discover what fact the memorialists intend to state; the words would imply, that the fact consisted in the probability that the councils are composed in the manner stated; but as a probability could scarcely have been alleged as a fact, the meaning must be, that a considerable number of the council, perhaps a majority, are interested in the manufacture or purchase of flour. The committee have before them a list of the members of the city council, with the avocation of each, from which it appears that there are amongst the thirty-six members of the city council, 1 miller, 2 shipping merchants, and 2 grocers. The memorialists were not therefore correctly informed as to the state of facts.

The memorial further states, that "it is well known that the Baltimore miller will, with the same water power, same dimensions of burr, and every part of mechanism corresponding, manufacture double the quantity of flour in any given time; thus demonstrating beyond any doubt, that something is wrong, and call for legislative interference." It is not here stated whether this assertion relates to a long or short period of time; if it be intended to apply to a period of time embracing months, or weeks, or even days, the fact may be as stated, and yet the necessity of legislative interference by no means follow as a conclusion. The mills around the city of Baltimore are all worked by an overshot power, whilst a large majority, or nearly the whole of those in Washington county, are undershot. This results from the nature of the country. Baltimore is situated just on the dividing line which separates the primitive from the alluvial country, where the streams have a great fall in a short distance; whilst the streams which flow through Washington county, are not attended generally with this advantage; and the expense of purchasing water rights, and building the dams necessary to obtain an overshot power, must be proportionally increased. The fact cannot be denied, of the difference in the construction of the mills, and important practical results necessarily follow. In an overshot mill the weight of the water is added to its current, and in dry seasons the advantage is still greater; by stopping the flowing of the water and causing it to accumulate in the dam, enough is collected to grind for the time of twenty-four hours, or more, when the usual flow of the stream would have been insufficient to turn the mill. It was owing probably to this circumstance, that during the last summer large quantities of wheat were carried from Washington and Frederick counties to be ground in Baltimore; the cause of which not being distinctly visible to the millers of that part of the country, they were led to the hasty conclusion, that "something was radically wrong, and legislative interference was required." Another advantage possessed by the Baltimore millers, is found in their vicinity to the citizens required to effect any repairs that may become necessary, and the operations of the mill are of course suspended but for a short time. No expense has been spared by the Baltimore millers in availing themselves of the great natural advantages which their geographical situation affords, and in drawing to their assistance all improvements in the art of milling. It may be confidently asserted, that in no part of the United States can there be found more costly or complete establishments than the mills which exist in the neighbourhood of Baltimore. From all these circumstances it may very well follow, that more flour can be manufactured in the same time at one of these mills, than can be made at a mill in Washington county, and yet nothing be radically wrong or call for legislative interference. That part of the memorial which asserts, that the city derives a considerable revenue from the inspectors, is so notoriously incorrect, that it need only be mentioned to shew the loose manner in which the memorial is drawn up.

Having thus considered the memorial referred to them, the committee will proceed to lay before the house some of the information upon the subject of wheat and flour which their enquiries have enabled them to collect. The state of Maryland may be divided into two sections, which produce wheat of two different kinds, distinguished in Baltimore by the name of water borne, and up country wheat, and these, when manufactured, produce different kinds of flour. The first is raised upon the counties of the eastern, and the lower part of the western shore; and is usually mixed with garlic; the other is grown in the upper counties of the western shore, where garlic has not yet found its way. The consequence of this difference is clearly explained in some of the depositions transmitted, with sundry other documents, to the legislature in 1822, and which now remain among the records of the house. From the impossibility of separating the garlic from the wheat, and the difficulty of grinding garlic on account of its hardness, it is necessary to make the mill stones rough and sharp, by which means the bran is much cut up; and the flour becomes specky. It sometimes happens that the water-borne wheat is free from garlic, and being then ground on smoother stones, the flour produced is free from this specky appearance, and is of a very superior quality; but generally it is as above described. The wheat grown in the upper country being free from garlic, is ground upon smoother stones, and of course more of the substance of the wheat, and less of the offal, is thrown into the flour. That the flour thus produced is of an admirable quality, and equal

to any in the United States, the committee are perfectly satisfied, and if any doubt existed upon the subject it would be removed by referring to the high price of such flour in the market, thus affording to its excellence the satisfactory proof resulting from continued demand. Howard-street flour, as the up country flour is called, generally commands the price of from 25 to 50 cents, or upwards, more than wharf flour, this latter designation being given to that which is produced from water-borne wheat. There are then in the Baltimore market, these two kinds of flour, to be used for home consumption or exportation, one commanding a higher price than the other. The knowledge of this fact has probably led the memorialists to think, what a superficial view of the subject would seem to justify, that both should not be designated by the same brand. But a more careful investigation will lead to a different conclusion. By the testimony before the committee, of numerous shippers of the article, it appears, that in many foreign ports a preference is given to one species of flour, whilst in others no difference is made, but both are estimated equally highly. In the British West India and European ports, when our flour is permitted to go there, in the eastern ports of the U. S. and for the purpose of being sent on long voyages, the Howard-street flour is preferred; but in the ports of Spain and Portugal, South America generally, and the West Indies with the above exception, both descriptions of flour are held in equal estimation. As a general remark it is believed to be correct, that the French and Spanish nations do not dislike the taste of garlic, and some of the evidence before the committee would justify the opinion that garlicy flour is preferred on that account. It would seem to be improper, when those foreign ports, which receive so large a part of our export, make no difference in the value of these two descriptions of flour, that there should be a distinction in the brands at home; more especially when all the advantages to which the Howard-street flour is entitled from the preference given to it for home consumption, are already reaped by a superiority in price. The Baltimore flour, which is composed in a very large proportion of wharf flour, enters into successful competition, at the present time, with that which is exported from Philadelphia or New-York. In the early part of the last summer, it was found necessary to raise the standard, in order to compete with the New-York flour, which had been brought down their canal. The interests of those persons at a distance from market, so clearly points to the propriety of sending their produce in the best possible shape, that it might have been expected that the flour from the interior of New-York would contain as much of the farina, and as little of the offal of the grain, as possible, the freight being the same for the higher and lower quality. This was found to be the case, and hence the necessity of raising the Baltimore standard, a measure which bore equally hard upon the millers of the city and country, who had provided themselves with a stock of grain; because out of a given number of bushels of wheat, a less number of barrels of flour of a high than a low standard can be made. The dissatisfaction of the memorialists of Washington county, is doubtless owing to this cause, as well as the one mentioned in a former part of this report; and the reasons of the change they probably took no pains to discover. At present, the character of the Baltimore flour stands as high abroad as that from any part of the United States, and this fact alone would seem to be decisive of these two propositions, viz. that the wharf flour has not heretofore, through sinister influence, been rated higher than it ought to be, and that no change in a system which has produced such desirable results ought now to be made. The suggestion made in the memorial, that the millers of Baltimore have undue influence over the inspectors, in persuading them to pass as superfine the wharf flour of an inferior quality, is rendered incredible by the circumstance, that the numerous body of shippers would thereby have their interests sacrificed, and moreover directly contradicted by the estimation in which this flour is held abroad. Nor is the idea more credible, that the influence of both millers and shippers should be united for the purpose of inducing the inspectors to depreciate the Howard street flour, because the millers are in no way interested in the matter, and the shippers would make their sales in foreign ports according to the inferior brand, and because such a course, if beneficial, would imply a destitution of all moral principle in a numerous class of citizens who have not shewn themselves open to any censure.

What benefit could possibly be derived by a change in the appointment of inspectors, and vesting it in the governor and council? On the contrary, the committee fear that great confusion would ensue in the inspection, and consequent injury to all classes of society connected in any way with the article of flour. The proposed alteration contemplates the appointment of an inspector from Washington or Frederick county, who would of course be especially charged with the protection of that particular part of the state. The other two inspectors, taken from the remaining part, would be obliged to resist the effort to give the Howard street flour any superiority over the wharf flour, and thus there would be constant dissension and confusion. Unless the system were pursued as it is now, one of these two changes would be effected; either the standard of the wharf flour would be raised, or that of the Howard street flour diminished. Either would be productive of serious loss to all those counties from which the water-borne wheat is now brought. The whole of the eastern shore, and all the lower counties of the western shore would suffer by the abandonment of a system, which in practice works well, for the purpose of introducing a novel and dangerous experiment, which will probably visit so large a portion of the state with evil and loss, before its errors can be corrected.

Read and referred to the committee appointed to bring in a bill relative to the flour inspection.

Tuesday, February 14, 1825.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Farquhar presents a petition from Mary Whitehill, of Frederick county, praying for a divorce a mensa et thoro; referred to the standing committee.

Mr. Stevens delivers the following report: The committee to whom was referred the memorial of Thomas Wright, of Queen-Anne's county, beg leave to report—That they have had the same under their consideration, and recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the judges of Queen-Anne's county court, be and they are hereby directed, to have the suits instituted by the state of Maryland against Thomas Wright, at the last October term in said county, struck off and discontinued, upon the said Thomas Wright paying the costs thereof.

By order, A. McIlhenny, Clk.

Which was read. Mr. McCulloch presents a petition from Joseph C. Cockey, brigade major and inspector of the 11th brigade of Maryland militia, praying an annual compensation may be allowed to him; referred to the standing committee on the militia.

The resolution in favour of the Catholic church, in Annapolis, was read the second time, assented to, and sent to the senate. Mr. Barnes reports a bill, entitled, An act to provide for the purchase of the office papers formerly belonging to the surveyor's office of Frederick county.

Mr. Sudler reports a bill, entitled, An act relative to the officers of auditor and adjutant-general of this state. On motion by Mr. Barnes, the following resolution was read: Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he hereby is authorized and required to subscribe for — shares of stock in the Frederick and Harper's Ferry Turnpike Road Company and for stock to the amount of \$5,000 in the company incorporated to make a turnpike road from Rockville, in Montgomery county, to the city of Frederick.

Mr. Banning obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to alter the mode of keeping the public roads in repair in Talbot county. Ordered, That Messrs. Banning, Millis and Spencer, report the same. On motion by Mr. Farquhar, Ordered, That the committee on the militia be instructed to examine the situation of the house now used as a magazine; and the state and condition of the public ammunition therein, and report their views as to the propriety of building an Arsenal for the use of the state.

Mr. Shower reports a bill, entitled, An act to elect the justices of the levy courts of the several counties of this state, by the people.

Wednesday, Feb. 15.

On motion by Mr. Kennedy, the following resolution was read:

Whereas by an act of congress, passed on the 13th day of May, in the year eighteen hundred and twenty, entitled, An act designating the ports within which only foreign armed vessels shall be permitted to enter, and which act excluded the ports of Baltimore, Annapolis, and all others within the state of Maryland; And whereas the said act is no longer in force, having expired by its own limitation; yet inasmuch as that act is generally known in Europe, the West India, and other foreign countries, and as the ports of Maryland, particularly those on the Chesapeake Bay, and its waters, are very safe for ships of war to resort to, particularly in the hurricane months, and the winter season, and where they can be supplied on reasonable terms, with provisions and stores of every kind, therefore, Resolved, that the governor and council be and they are hereby authorized and required, to issue their proclamation, giving notice that all the ports in the state of Maryland shall be open to receive foreign armed vessels of every nation, and that they may there lay in provisions and water, and stores of every kind, in moderate terms, and where they may ride at anchor in safety from storms and tempests.

Mr. Gantt presents a petition from Caleb Barry for support; referred.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN STEAM ENGINE

(From Mrs. C. —'s Album.)

The modern world will be as much astonished at the novel application of the giant power of steam which is now in progress, as the ancients would be were they to behold it driving along the desert mightier and more animated bulks than the Leviathans and Krakens of their fables. Perkins' steam artillery is said to have taken amazingly; and the same engine and boiler which load and fire the ordnance can be made to wheel and counter-march the whole of the iron squadron, and also be made to give bayonet charges, at the rate of at least ten miles an hour, the whole system of warfare will undergo a most satisfactory change. War has always been styled the sport of kings; but by the adoption of this matchless invention will become the sport of the people, and conquering nations will collect to behold steam engine cannonading and sabring each other on the battlefield with as much zest as the Romans beheld the strife of gladiators and wild beasts in the amphitheatre. By this means "Othello's occupation will be gone," and the Duke of Wellington will have to resign the Master generalship of the Ordnance of Mr. Perkins. There will be great appointment among the immortal Teuths, when they have to come down from their charge, doff their wishing caps and warlike trowers, and become firemen to as many steam engines of horse and one ass power each. Even the ladies fond as they are of novelties, will resist this for which all the partiality they ever shewn to swords, whiskers and white feathers, it will be either to desert the parade or to flirt with steam engines.—It would be impossible to have a steaming, and even to hint at such a thing in the country would be both slander and sedition; but I have no hesitation in saying, that for one third the sum which this country has lost by the insolvency of the Austrian government alone, Mr. Perkins would have constructed a steam Holy Alliance, which would have worked still more pleasantly, lasted much longer, and given far more general satisfaction than that which has cost so much in the making and maintenance, which is always in danger of falling to pieces. The same principle would apply to all other bodily throughout the kingdom. In both houses of Parliament for instance, there is a great deal both mechanical matter and mechanical toasting; there is no reason why steam engines should be employed to fill the room of the one, and to perform the other.

The system might be carried a little further than this. It is not meant to be said that steam engines could be substituted for Lord Liverpool, Lord Eldon, Lord Bathurst, George Canning, Mr. Croker, or even Mr. Martin of Galway; we presume it will not be denied that they would very well in the place of Sir Joseph York, Sir Banks, Mr. Butterworth, Sir Francis Osmond, Sir William Curtis, Mr. Wynne, &c. and they might take a good deal of drudgery off the shoulders of Mr. Secretary Peel, Mr. Solicitor General the learned Dr. Philmore, and others. Indeed it is not easy to say beforehand what would be the advantages of Perkins' steam Parliament, many are obvious, and others would follow. The projected applications of this valuable and important engine to other purposes, public and domestic, which have hitherto been done by mere man drudgery, are so many, and so important that they will furnish matter for further investigation. English paper.

STORM AT ST. PETERSBURG.

On the 23th of October, (say accounts from Petersburg,) the roofs of ninety public and private buildings, and of six churches were blown down.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias, issued out of court of appeals, at suit of the state of Maryland against Benjamin Gaither, I have executed and levied upon all that tract or part of a tract or parcel of land called "Part of Gaither's Collection," or by what name the same may be called, containing 94 1/2 acres of land more or less, being the plantation whereon John Gaither now resides, also the life estate of said Gaither, in and to a three story Brick House and 1/2 situate on School Street, in the city of Annapolis, present in the occupation of Mr. David Rigby. I hereby give notice, that on Friday 24th February I shall proceed to sell the said property at the Court House, at eleven o'clock, to the highest bidder, to satisfy the debts due as aforesaid. B. Welch, of Ben. Shif. & Co. Auctioneers. Feb. 2.

Maryland Gazette. ANNAPOLIS. THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 1825. Vol. 10. No. 10. Printed and Sold by George's Countess, and the City of Annapolis.

The great non-compliance doing his duty, and the measure, but defects, also after.

1. Not more of the peace commission, in this such shall be in which they side.

2. That all precincts, issued the peace will made return, issues the same and determine, and none other who issued the in office.

3. That notables shall be election districts, as to the district respectively.

4. That each shall prepare where all present shall be fair whenever any neglect to do his with the man put into his hands, the same shall decline him, by a sum rected to some who shall serve its appearing has neglected justice shall to give judgment against securities, upon constable's bond, said justice, a clerk of the court of which shall delinquent constable.

5. That each hereafter to be commissioned, shall receive 12 1/2 cent ministered by duties by him of the peace, justices of the authorities to

6. That the to be appointed to receive as they are by take, and the bonds they are to give sum.

7. That no shall issue an or other precedence of the agent or attorney instance of the written direct if, agent or kept and among the said suit.

Your memo-treats your take the subject into your rate consider the law as proper their manner or honest claims thing is more of such an your's, while her brings with of the existed planned off; an alist is certain will no longer exist in the a-tive, to the g-very many o- in their duty as well as your vocate.

THOMAS Mr. Loyall under embas was about to gave him pain the improper ed, but from itself, and th-which had r-He rose to a bill authoriz to dispose of It would Treasury

To the Editor of the Md. Gazette. Mr. Green, If we have been rightly informed, the Maryland Gazette, of which you are the Editor, has been conducted with independence from your grand father's time to the present day, in regular succession by his relic, and after by his next of kin. The Maryland Gazette was the only public journal at the commencement of the war of the revolution, that had an existence in this State—then it was, that this journal sounded the tocsin of alarm, and thro' its medium ass-ated to rouse the people of Mary-land, not only to their declaration of independence, but to use every necessary means of defence and war fare—and when this glorious struggle terminated in peace it did not fail to assist in the organization of the present happy government, now that you are asked to assist in the correction of some abuses in the administration of justice, by an insertion of the annexed memorial for the consideration of the Legislators now assembled in your city, altho' it might appear, at first view, of minor importance, still upon reflection it must be deemed of vital interest to a majority of the good people of this state—and that too, principally affecting those who are not able to propose even a remedy for themselves, tho' most interested.

Yours, F. I.

To the Honourable the Legislature of Maryland now in session.

The petition of the undersigned, in behalf of the poor people of this state, humbly sheweth to your honourable body—that they labour under the most serious evils in the administration of justice under the law entitled, "An act for the speedy recovery of small debts out of court, and to repeal the acts of assembly there-in mentioned," and the several provisions thereof, growing more out of the neglect of duty of the officers of justice under the law, than out of