

THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

It is to be presumed that the Speaker felt some embarrassment in selecting the Committee to whom has been referred a question deeply involving the character of the Vice President. Standing, as that high officer does, politically opposed to the party of which the Speaker himself is so conspicuous a leader, it appears to us that the course before him was extremely plain. In an inquiry of such a nature, it was only necessary that the persons selected should be capable, and in the strictest sense of the word, impartial. If seven men could have been found in the House unconnected with any party, and wholly free from any political bias or prejudice that could, in the smallest degree, warp their judgment, of those seven the Committee should have been composed. If none such were to be found, then (excluding equally the personal friends and personal enemies of the Vice-President,) the Committee should have been made up, as nearly as possible, of an equal number of gentlemen attached to the two great political parties which now divide the country, and of men too, who are not distinguished for their zeal as partisans. The only legitimate object on every such occasion, must be to secure impartiality and satisfactory public expectation.

It does not appear, that in the selection of this Committee, Mr. Speaker Taylor has been influenced by these, as it appears to us, obvious reasons. Mr. Floyd and Mr. Campbell are the only members of the Committee not devoted to the administration. Except these, the rest are known to be the warm and decided political opponents of the Vice-President, one of them, as we have before stated, his bitter personal enemy. We notice the circumstance that the Committee is composed of the decided friends of Messrs. Adams and Clay, for the purpose of fixing the public attention upon the fact, that this inquiry is in the hands, not of Mr. Calhoun's political friends, but of his opponents; and to say, that if the object of this arrangement on the part of the Speaker be to make the inquiry as rigid as possible, we are sure that Mr. Calhoun and his friends will have reason to rejoice in it. The more thorough the investigation—the severer the scrutiny, the more certain and complete will be his triumph. If, on the contrary, it be intended to stifle inquiry, or to give the affair such a direction as to prevent a full development of the truth, then we will say, the friends of the administration cannot take such a course without incurring an awful responsibility to the people.

Constituted as the Committee is, of five, out of seven, administrative men, the responsibility is with them. And we would fain hope, that such a course will be taken as is due to the Committee themselves and to the country—as well as to secure ample justice to the distinguished individual whose official conduct they are called upon to examine.

We repeat that we have no fears for the result. Presuming (as at the present stage of the business, we are bound to do,) that, in giving Mr. Calhoun a Committee composed almost entirely of his political opponents, (who are also the personal and political friends of Messrs. Adams and Clay,) it is only intended to subject his conduct to the most rigid scrutiny, we think it rather a cause of congratulation—feeling, on our part, the most entire confidence that no impartial inquiry into the conduct of the Vice-President, however inquisitorial it may be, can result otherwise than in the establishment of the purity of his motives and in the integrity of his conduct, in every act of his life.

U. S. Telegraph.

LUCK.

A few days since, Dame Fortune, in some of her freaks, presented a young man near Auburn with a prize in a lottery of \$10,000, and a pair of twins, on the same day.

DELAWARE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of this State assembled at Dover, on the 2d inst. and elected Archibald Hamilton, Esq. Speaker—Samuel H. Harrington, Esq. Clerk—and Vincent Vandever, Esq. Sergeant-at-Arms. The Senate did not organize until Wednesday afternoon, when Col. Henry Whiteley was chosen Speaker—Henry Stoll, Esq. Clerk—and John Catts, Sergeant-at-Arms. Del. Watchman.

CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD.
New-York Court of Oyer and Terminer.

Tuesday, January 2.
Thomas Hyatt, Henry B. Lambert, Samuel F. Lambert, and Charles Mowatt, were called to the bar. Thomas Hyatt did not appear. The others appearing—

Judge Edwards addressed the prisoners as follows:—

You having been convicted of the conspiracy to defraud, for which you have been indicted, it has now become the painful duty of the court to pass sentence upon you. With a view to a correct discharge of this duty, and that we might not inflict any unnecessary suffering on the one hand, or fail in meeting the demands of the public justice on the other, we have bestowed our full and deliberate attention to the facts developed in the course of your trials, and to every circumstance which has presented itself to us, either in extenuation or aggravation of your offences. In arriving at a result we have also considered what is due to the great end of criminal justice—the safety of society; and in consequence of developments, within the last six months, of the frauds which have been practised upon this community by the agents of monied institutions, this consideration has pressed itself most powerfully upon our attention. Even during the trials which have taken place at the present term of this court, we have witnessed displays of depravity on the part of the agents of monied institutions of the most appalling nature. As common as crimes are in all great cities, yet this community was not prepared to expect from the class of society to which the perpetrators of these crimes belonged, such a burst of iniquity. These offences have been characterized by breaches of official and personal confidence; by a course of deception and misrepresentation long and systematically pursued, and by ingenious and crafty devices which no ordinary prudence could guard against. Nor was this all; among the actors in these scenes were some of the principal agents in the management of monied institutions, and they have been found actually combining and conspiring together for the accomplishment of their nefarious purposes. From conspiracies composed of men of so much talent, availing themselves of their high standing, it is not surprising that they should have swept society as with the besom of destruction. When crimes of such a character, attended with such destructive justice to gather themselves up to meet the occasion, and to extend as far as in them lies, the protecting arm of the law.

Our monied institutions, are not only the repositories of the wealth, not only of our own citizens but of those of other states and of other countries. In them are deposited the hard earnings of the industrious and the frugal, and extensive deprivations upon these must necessarily be attended with a train of heart-rending suffering. Considerations of public policy, apply in this city with peculiar force in favour of guarding these institutions. This is to a great extent centered the wealth of the nation. For the purpose of rendering this wealth subservient to the advancement of the general welfare, experience has shown, that it is very important that it be to a great extent vested in such institutions. But nothing is more certain, than that they cannot exist but under the guardianship of incorruptible agents, and so violent are the temptations for the commission of frauds upon such institutions, and such facilities are afforded the agents for their perpetration, that considerations of public policy call loudly whenever such cases occur, for infliction of exemplary punishment upon the offenders. If we pass from this general view to your particular cases, we find but little to mitigate your punishment. The mischief which you have contributed towards bringing upon society were many and extensive in their operations. The United States Lombard Association had bonded out at the time of its failure, and which it was unable to redeem to the amount of \$600,000. & the Sun Fire Insurance Company lost \$240,000 of its funds. Whether therefore we consider your offences with a view to the depravity they indicate, the sufferings they have brought upon society, or the future safety of the community, we are most sensibly admonished of our responsibility to the people, who look for protection to the laws

which we are called upon to administer, and are penetrated with a solemn conviction, that there is no course left us, compatible with our duty, but to inflict exemplary punishment upon you.

The extraordinary character of the case which we are called to pass upon, has left the court almost without precedent to guide its discretion. In one case, however, which was brought before this Court within the last year, we took occasion to observe, that in finding the sentence, we intended distinctly to give the public to understand in what estimation we held such crimes.

In contemplating your cases, we have considered your former standing in society, yet can perceive in it nothing to entitle you to our clemency. The miserable sons and daughters of vice may plead their ignorance and their necessities, and to such effect as to draw tears from the eyes of Justice while she strikes. But your talents and your station in society afforded you a command in your power to obtain by honest means, a respectable support. If your punishment was to be measured by the suffering you have produced, it would be difficult to fix its limits to it. If we consider your punishment with a view to the character of the offence, the stern dictates of justice forbid that we should alter; if with a view to the future safety of society, experience raises her mournful voice against you.

But although nothing can be said in justification or excuse of your conduct, yet your offences are far from being equally atrocious. The circumstances attending the obtaining of an affidavit that the whole capital stock of the Madison Insurance Company was paid up, when not a dollar of it was paid—and then obtaining a certificate of full stock to the amount of \$175,000, and palming it off upon the Sun Fire Insurance Company, was an act of atrocity, which calls for the severe animadversion of the Court. This fact, strikingly distinguishes the case of Charles Mowatt from that of his co-conspirators. The making of a similar affidavit by Thomas Hyatt, relative to the U. S. Lombard Association, that all the stock was paid for, to the amount of \$300,000, when in truth but five per cent was paid, was an act of a similar character; and to this, in his case, is superadded the fact of his signing and assisting in putting off the Bonds of that Company upon the community in the course of ten months to the amount of one million of dollars; six hundred thousand dollars of which remained unpaid at the time of its failure.

A particular recital of all the circumstances of your cases would be attended with an unnecessary waste of time. We mention these facts, only, which have induced the court to discriminate in your sentences. Under these views of your cases the opinion of the court is, and such is their sentence.

That you, Charles Mowatt, be imprisoned in the penitentiary of the city of New York for the term of two years.

That you, Henry B. Lambert, be imprisoned in the penitentiary for the term of one year.

That you, Samuel F. Lambert, be imprisoned in the penitentiary for the term of one year.

That Thomas Hyatt be imprisoned in the penitentiary for the term of two years.

TOBACCO.

Little or none of this article, the growth of 1826, has yet come to this market, except from Ohio. From that state several crops have been inspected and sold for high prices. One lot of six hogsheads sold yesterday for from 12 to \$13 round, and the whole crop of the same planter, eighteen hogsheads in number, has passed inspection in the finest order, and has averaged nearly, if not quite, \$14 per hundred. The perfection to which the Ohio planters have already attained in what has been deemed difficult in the culture, and yet more in the process of preparing for market, is a remarkable proof of the superiority to be expected in every case where the actual producer is under the constant influence of self-interest and the prospect of immediate personal profit. That influence united with the fertility of the soil, and the extraordinary adaptation of their new lands to tobacco of the finest quality, is raising up a competition to which the planter of the sea board, slave labour district, will have to yield, notwithstanding his greater facilities of transportation to market; and if this trans-

montane rivalry be at this time so formidable how much more irresistible, when, by means of the Ohio and Chesapeake canal, the only advantage in favour of the slave holding planter, shall have been removed, and upon how many more articles will that rivalry bear? The Ohio planters who visit our market, aver that whilst they can get \$4 per hundred on their farms, or what is the same thing, clear of expenses in this market, they will regard it as a profitable object for the employment of their labour and capital. The particular crops of which we have spoken were transported from more than fifty miles beyond Wheeling, for \$1 75 per cwt. and it may probably be assumed that the average cost of transportation from the state of Ohio is not now more than \$2 50 or \$25 per 1000 pounds. When the canal shall have been finished, the cost, according to the anticipations of its friends, will not exceed five, perhaps three dollars per hhd. May it not, then, be predicted, that Ohio tobacco, of the finest quality, will be brought here, and sold for less than we can make Maryland of the worst? And what must be the effect of this upon the price of Maryland lands? This side of the picture seems truly a gloomy aspect in the eyes of Maryland planters—but are there not countervailing advantages in store for them? And were there not, do they not find in their public spirit, and their devotion to the general good, an unflinching salvo for any personal sacrifice? It is known, in proof of their patriotism, that the planters of Prince-George's, have disputed for nothing but the honour of who should be the first to break ground in this national work.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Several bills of a public nature have been reported in the legislature. One of them, introduced by Mr. NELSON, of the senate, is a supplement to the law against

EXCESSIVE USURY.

This bill provides, that in any action hereafter to be brought in any court of this state, upon any bond, note, mortgage, bill obligatory, bill of exchange, or other evidence of debt, no person shall be permitted to plead or avail himself of the time of so doing, unless he shall at the time of so doing, tender to the plaintiff in the action, the whole sum due him, with interest upon the same at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, and anything in the law of 1794 to the contrary notwithstanding.

BANKS & ROADS.

Mr. NELSON has also presented a bill to provide for making several turnpike roads, and for the extension of the charter of the Farmers Bank of Maryland, and its Branches; the Bank of Westminster, and its Branches; and the Frederick County Bank, to the 1st day of January, 1845. The condition upon which it is proposed to extend the charters of these institutions, is, that before the first day of January next, each of them subscribe for 500 shares (amounting to the sum of 10,000 dollars for each bank) in the stock of the Frederick and Harper's Ferry turnpike road company or in the stock of the company incorporated to make a turnpike road from the District of Columbia, through Montgomery and Frederick counties to Frederick-town.

Such of the above named banks as are willing to comply with the terms of this bill, are authorized to contract with the president and managers of said roads, for the construction of a proportion of such road or roads, which part, when completed, is to become the property of the bank contracting for and making the same.

APPRENTICES.

Mr. NELSON has also reported a bill supplementary to the act for the better regulation of apprentices. It appears from the preamble to this bill, that certain justices of the peace, residing remote from the seat of justice in their counties, and not apprized of the terms courts being in session at the place, have, during the sessions of said courts, bound out apprentices.

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Maryland Gazette
Baltimore
THURSDAY, JAN. 11, 1827.

U. S. SENATOR.
General SAMUEL SMITH, was on Tuesday last, unanimously re-elected Senator, by the legislature, to represent this state in the Senate of the United States, for six years ending the 4th of March next.

IMPORTANT LEAVE.

Leave was yesterday granted Mr. Tidball, of Washington County, to introduce into the House of Delegates, a bill to abolish the high Court of Chancery, and Orphans Courts of this state, and to establish a more efficient system of equity therein.

The re-election (by the legislature of New-York) of Mr. Van-Buren, to the senate of the United States, is spoken of with much certainty, by his numerous friends in that state.

Judge PHILIP P. BARBOUR, of Virginia, at the solicitation of more than four hundred of his former constituents of Louisiana county, has consented again to become a candidate for a seat in the congress of the United States, and is awaiting assurances of support from his friends in the other counties of the district, when he will resign his seat on the bench.

BILLS OF GENERAL INTEREST
Now before the Legislature of Maryland.

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It further provides, that upon the trial of any issue upon such plea or defence in this state, it shall be the duty of the jury to ascertain the amount of such principal and interest, and to render a verdict for the same; and, if upon such finding of the jury, it shall appear that the sum actually due, does not exceed in principal and interest, the sum tendered by the defendant, then the person bringing the action, shall be adjudged to pay the costs thereof.

The last section repeals all acts and parts of acts of assembly inconsistent with the provisions of this bill.

The law of 1794, referred to above, limits the interest on money to 6 per cent per annum, and the interest on tobacco at 8 per cent, and at the same time declares, that all bonds, contracts, &c. bearing a greater interest than 6 per cent shall be void, and subjects the person exacting or taking more, to a forfeiture of treble the value of the sum claimed.

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This bill contemplates the confirma-

tion of all such contracts of apprenticeship, where they have been approved and recorded, as directed by the sixth section of the original act; but in no other case.

It also empowers any two justices of the peace of the county in which the person to be bound may reside, to bind out as an apprentice, any child which the orphan court of their county may now lawfully bind out, such justices, however, taking care to observe the restrictions laid down in the original act.

TAX ON PLAINTIFFS.

Mr. HARRISON has reported in the senate, a bill to annul the act to repeal certain acts relative to assessments, and to lay a tax on plaintiffs, &c. The intention of this bill is to abolish the tax of fifty cents imposed by the act of last session upon every person instituting an action in any county court in this state.

DECREES FOR CONVEYANCES.

Mr. HARRISON has reported in the senate, a bill further supplementary to the act enlarging the power of the high court of chancery. This bill makes it discretionary with the chancellor & the county courts holding equity jurisdiction, in all cases where there are two or more defendants, and where it may be deemed necessary to decree a conveyance of the property in controversy, either to decree that the defendants shall make the conveyance, or to decree that the same shall be made by a trustee to be appointed by the chancellor or said county courts. And in case the trustee, or the defendants, shall fail to make a conveyance, then the decree shall be considered a full conveyance of the legal title to the property decreed to be conveyed.

PROMISSORY NOTES, &c.

Mr. STRICKLAND has reported a bill in the house of delegates, which proposes to make the protest of any promissory note, inland bill of exchange or check, where such protest is under the hand and official seal of a notary public of this state, presumptive evidence of the facts stated in the protest of the demand and refusal to accept or pay such promissory note, &c. And further, to make such protest presumptive evidence of the facts stated therein, in relation to the notice given to the drawer or endorser of the dishonour of such note, &c.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Mr. DU VAL has offered in the house of delegates a bill supplementary to the act to provide for the public instruction of youth in primary schools. This bill repeals that part of the law passed Feb. 28, 1826, which authorizes the trustees of school districts to levy a tax on the inhabitants of their districts for the support of the schools, and clothes the levy court of the county with this power. It also provides, that all monies so levied and collected, shall be applied to the establishment of primary schools in the manner directed by the original law.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Mr. BRISSETT has reported to the house of delegates a bill to abolish imprisonment for debt. This bill exempts from imprisonment every debtor who shall make oath before a justice of the peace of his county, that he has the property of any description, and that he has made no conveyance with a view to defraud his creditors. Any debtor swearing falsely, is to be deemed guilty of perjury, and on conviction of the same may be sentenced to a confinement in the penitentiary for a period of ten years, and not less than five, in the discretion of the court. All property acquired by a debtor after taking the oath prescribed and receiving a discharge, shall be subject to the payment of his debts, and the claims of judgment creditors are to have preference. No judgment, bond, specialty nor other claim, to be affected by the passage of this bill, nor the holder thereof barred from the recovery of the same, by the statute of limitations.

To the Editor of the Md. Gazette.

Mr. Green,
In addition to the many subjects of internal improvement, so judiciously recommended by Governor Kent in his late message to the General Assembly of Maryland, I would beg leave to call their attention to a subject which, as I apprehend, especially demands the earliest consideration both of the State and General Government.

I allude to the improvement of the road leading from this city to the city of Washington. This road is peculiarly both a state and national road, as Annapolis is the capital of the state, and the natural seaport of Washington. At respects time, Annapolis is the nearest route to Washington from every part in Europe, and we find that such is the opinion of the British government, as it is now fully ascertained that the British mails are hereafter to be landed at this place. The expense of making this road, compared with the importance of the suggested improvement, would be trifling indeed, presenting no serious obstacles, and is believed, from an examination of the actual survey, to be a project which is well worthy of the consideration of the General Assembly, that a bill to improve the "Calvert's" road, from Annapolis to Washington, would not be a waste of time.

twenty miles; thus abridging the distance between Annapolis and the Capital to twenty-five miles. The proposed road would pass through the rich great of Prince George's, and would enable the wealthy farmers and planters of that rich district of country to supply the city of Washington with the produce of their lands, with increased advantage to both the seller and purchaser. The citizens of the Eastern Shore, too, are deeply interested in this improvement, as during some periods of the year there are but two routes of communication between the Eastern and Western Shore, the circuitous and dangerous route round the head of the bay, which, too, is indeed, sometimes shut up by the freezing of the Susquehanna, and the direct, certain, and safe route through Annapolis.

The principal obstacle, that heretofore presented itself as an objection to this road, has been removed by the erection of a handsome and substantial bridge over South River, which a company of enterprising gentlemen have caused to be built at an expense of \$20,000 dollars.

Would not the counties of Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, and Anne-Arundel, and indeed every county on the western shore, with the exception of Baltimore and Harford, be greatly benefited by it? But I would not place the merits of this improvement on local or sectional interests, I would look at it as a matter of state concern only; for as our legislature and that of the general government, are in session at the same season of the year, the early transmission of their proceedings from the one to the other, is of itself of sufficient importance to entitle this subject to the early and favourable consideration of the legislature. This subject must have escaped the notice of Governor Kent, as from his known and untiring zeal in behalf of public improvement, I am confident he would have made it one of his special suggestions in his late message, and the writer of these remarks now respectfully solicits his aid and assistance on this subject.

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Legislature of Maryland. HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Friday, January 5
Stephen Ruyner, esq. a delegate returned from Talbot county, appeared, qualified and took his seat. The Speaker laid before the house a report from the clerk of Prince-George's county court, relative to the attendance of the judges.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Mr. Peach, from Mary Crooke, and John Cunningham, of Prince-George's, severally for pecuniary relief. Mr. Tyson, from Ann Culverwell, of Baltimore, for a divorce. Mr. Barnes, a memorial from the Rev. Samuel Knox, principal of the Frederick Academy, on the subject of Education. Mr. Hope, from John Sean, late sheriff of Harford, for relief. Mr. Tyson, from Samuel R. Smith, of Baltimore, for indemnification for losses sustained by the operation of an act of assembly.

LEAVES GRANTED.

Mr. Tidball, to report a bill authorising commissions to be issued to take the testimony of witnesses residing within this state.
Mr. Peter to report a bill to regulate the real and personal property of Marylanders.
Mr. Brooke, to report a bill relative to marriage licenses, and for other purposes.
Mr. Barnes, to report a supplement to the act to authorise the governor and council to appoint the inspectors of flour for this state.

BILL PASSED.

The bill to change the christian name of Thomas Littleton Robins, the infant son of James B. Robins, late of Worcester, deceased, which originated in, and was passed by the senate, was read the second time and passed.

BILLS REPORTED.

Mr. Wright, reported a bill to repeal an act exempting the agents and overseers of the county roads in Dorchester county, from going duty on said roads.
Mr. Lithicum a bill to close up part of an old road, and make public the new road therein mentioned; which were severally read a second time by special order, and passed.
Mr. Peach a bill relative to public roads in Prince-George's.
Mr. Ridgway, a bill to repeal part of the act to appropriate certain lands to the pillars and columns of this state, and for the sale of vacant lands, passed at November session, 1781.

Mr. J. W. Thomas, a bill authorising the governor and council of this state, to appoint inspectors of fish in the city of Baltimore, and for other purposes.