

COM. PORTER OFF HAVANA

Judging from the last advices from Havana, it is probable we shall hear of an action between Commodore Porter and Com. Laborde. Porter had sent notice to Laborde that he was on the coast, and a Spanish ship which left that port on the 26th brings information to New York that there had been an embargo of 4 days at Havana to enable Com. Laborde to proceed to sea with part of his squadron. On the sailing of Laborde, an embargo was raised. Porter had a Spanish ship with a valuable cargo of quicksilver, &c. His squadron consisted of a frigate 2 brigs and a schooner.

FIRE!

From the Chester-town Telegraph of January 19.
Between the hours of seven and eight o'clock last night, an alarm of fire was given in our village, and was soon discovered that it proceeded from Washington College. The fire originated in the cellar, and spread to the common hall, on Centre building, in a quantity of fustic, &c. It is not known whether it was the effect of accident or design. A village engine arrived on the spot in a few minutes after the alarm was given, and while the flames were confined to the cellar, but owing to a scarcity of water could not be extinguished. The fire continued to increase with redoubled fury, ascending through the common hall to the roof, and from thence extending along to each wing, the whole building was soon wrapped in one sheet of vivid flame. We never witnessed a more awful and sublime sight. In little more than two hours the whole building was destroyed. The corner stone of this edifice was laid we believe about the year '87 or '88 by that great apostle of freedom whose name it bore.

Sale of Land for Cash

To be sold for CASH, at Public Sale, on Monday the fifth day of February next,

TWO TRACTS OF LAND lying on Severn River, five miles from the city of Annapolis, and contiguous to each other. The one called Fradurn and the other Anghy Discovery, the two tracts contain three hundred and twenty acres thereabout. John Camden who lives on the land, will show it to any person inclined to purchase. The sale to be at Mr. Hunter's Hotel. Mr. Richard J. Crabb will attend the sale and is authorized to receive the cash and will receive in payment good negotiable notes, with two months payable and discountable at the Farmers Bank of Maryland. The sale to commence at eleven o'clock.

Chancery Sale.

By virtue of a decree of the Court of Chancery, the subscriber will propose to public sale, at Hunter's Tavern, in the city of Annapolis, on Saturday the 10th day of February next, all the right, title and interest, of Susannah Elliott, formerly Susannah Nicholson, in and to a tract or parcel of

LANDS

whereof John Nicholson, died seized called 'Beard's Habitation,' lying and being in Anne Arundel county. Also sundry articles of personal property. Terms of sale—Cash to be paid on the day of sale, or on the ratification thereof. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock.

Notice.

In pursuance of a commission which has heretofore issued from Worcester county court, authorizing, and regarding the subscribers to divide the real estate, lying and being situated in Worcester county, whereof Barbara Walston, late of said county, died seized, without having disposed thereof by will, among the several parties entitled to the same by the laws of this State, the subscribers will meet on the said real estate on Monday the 14th day of March next, for the purpose of performing the duties enjoined on them by the said commission.

Notice.

The Commissioners of the Tax for Anne Arundel county, will meet at the court house in the city of Annapolis, on Thursday the 14th day of February next, for the purpose of hearing appeals and making transfers. All persons having appeals to make to the board, and those having transfers to be made, are hereby notified that at the time of that meeting the board of the Commissioners will be closed for the year 1837.

Baltimore Gazette
ANNAPOLIS:
THURSDAY, JAN. 18, 1837.

Free Blacks in the District of Columbia.

The committee on the District of Columbia, who were a few weeks since directed by the House of Representatives to inquire whether any law existed in that District authorizing the imprisonment of any freeman of colour & his sale, as an unclaimed slave, for penalties and other charges, have made their report.

The report says—"In this District, as in all the slave-holding states in the union, the legal presumption is, that persons of colour free, are absconding slaves, and prima facie liable to all the legal provisions applicable to that class of persons."
The committee have frankly signified their approbation of this presumption, and declined recommending its abolition from the law of Maryland now prevailing in the county of Washington in the District of Columbia. They however recommend that the law be so altered as to make the free and other charges incidental on a free coloured person's commitment to prison as a runaway in the District of Columbia, in every case where it shall on examination appear that such person is entitled to his or her freedom, chargeable to the county, and not to the person so committed. To effectuate this alteration, and prevent the sale of any free person of colour as a slave, the committee have reported a bill to abrogate, so far as the same operates in the District of Columbia, part of the 21st section of the act of this state, passed in 1713, entitled, "An act relating to servants and slaves."

The committee assign various reasons for the course they have pursued, and amongst them the following, which we think sufficient to convince every unprejudiced mind of the correctness of their decision—"The District of Columbia, is surrounded on all sides by the states of Maryland and Virginia, slave holding states, to a great extent, and is situated in the heart of a large slave population. To establish by law the principle here, that all persons of colour, when found wandering at large, strangers and unknown within the District, are to be presumed and received as free until the contrary is shown, would make it the favourite resort of fugitive slaves, to the great loss and constant vexation of slave owners throughout the southern states, and to the insupportable annoyance of the inhabitants of the District."

BILLS OF PUBLIC INTEREST
Before the Legislature of Maryland.
Reported in the House of Delegates.

COLONIZATION SOCIETY.
Mr. Speed—A bill for the benefit of the American Colonization Society. Sec. 1. Authorizes the payment out of the Treasury of one thousand dollars for the use of the Society, after the passage of the act.

Sec. 2. One thousand dollars to be paid to the Treasurer of the Society in January 1838, and the like sum in each successive year; no payment to be made after the present year unless the officers of the Society present satisfactory proof to the Treasurer of the W. S. that the whole of the appropriation of the preceding year has been applied towards the colonization on the coast of Africa, of free people of colour, who had been actual residents of this state for twelve months preceding the time of their embarkation.

SERVICE OF PROCESS.
Mr. E. Hughes—A bill regulating the service of process by Constables.

Sec. 1. No justice of the peace, after the 4th of July next, shall issue warrant against any citizen of the state, in case of debt or damage, unless the party requiring the same, shall swear that he believes the party is about to remove or abscond from the state or county in which process may issue.

Sec. 2. Provides, that instead of warrants in case of debt or damage, justices shall issue subpoenas returnable at a place within the election district of the county in which the defendant may reside, on a day certain, not exceeding 40 days from the time of issuing thereof, directed to the constable of the district, who shall summon the person against whom the same may have issued; and if the constable shall not be able to find the person against whom summons shall issue, it shall be his duty to leave a copy of said summons at the residence of such person, and the justice shall proceed to trial in the same manner as if summons had been personally served.

Sec. 3. When person summoned shall neglect to appear at the time and place appointed, justice to proceed to trial, and give judgment, or give time not exceeding 14 days, of which notice to be delivered to constable, a copy to be delivered on defendant, one day previous to the day of judgment.

as established by law for issuing warrants.

Sec. 7. Constable making false return, is liable to the penalties of perjury, and to be answerable for all damages that may be sustained by reason thereof.

Sec. 8. Constable refusing to make return, to be answerable for neglect of duty, in the same manner as now provided by law, and his bond to be liable.

Sec. 8. Repeals all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this.

BRIGADE INSPECTORS.

Mr. J. W. Thomas—A bill to provide a compensation for the Brigade-Inspectors in the militia of this state. The compensation is not fixed in the bill, but is left to be established when the bill is called on for a second reading.

MAGISTRATE JURISDICTION.

Mr. Turner—A bill further supplementary to the act for the recovery of small debts out of court, &c.

Sec. 1. After the first day of May next, clothes justices of the peace with the power of hearing and determining matter in controversy between creditor and debtor, where the real debt and damages do not exceed \$100, in the same manner that such justices now do, in cases where the debt does not exceed fifty dollars.

Sec. 2. Any judgment given by a justice of the peace, to be a lien upon any real property possessed by a debtor; provided the plaintiff causes a copy of such judgment, certified by the justice rendering the same, to be recorded in the county clerk's office. Said clerk to keep a docket for that purpose, and to receive a fee of 12½ cents for his services, which fee shall be paid by the plaintiff.

TO EXEMPT A LOTTERY FROM TAX.

Mr. Tidball—A bill to release the tax upon the Hager's town Academy lottery. This bill provides that the lottery authorized to be drawn by the act of December session 1815, supplemental to the act founding an academy at Hager's town, be exempted from the payment of the five per cent. required by the act to regulate lotteries.

STATE LIBRARIAN.

Mr. Banning—An act for establishing a library for the use of the legislature.

Sec. 1. Directs the executive to cause an apartment to be prepared in the state house for a library, and to appoint a librarian to take charge of the same, and collect the books belonging to the state, and deposit them therein.

Sec. 2. Before the librarian enters upon the duties of his office, he shall bond to the state in the amount of \$2000, with one or more securities to be approved by the governor and council, for the faithful performance of his duties. Said bond to be filed in the executive chamber.

Sec. 3. The librarian not to permit books to be taken from the library except by members of the executive or of the legislature.

Sec. 4. Librarian to keep a register of books taken away, and the persons taking them to register their names. Ten days after the adjournment of the legislature, all books taken away to be collected by the librarian.

Sec. 5. Librarian annually, at the meeting of the legislature, to report a schedule of books in the library.

Sec. 6. The executive authorized to fix the compensation of the librarian.

GAOL WARDEN.

Mr. Heath—A bill to appoint a Warden for the gaol of Baltimore county. The preamble to this bill states that it has been represented to the legislature, that from the multiplicity of other business, the sheriff of Baltimore county cannot pay that personal attention to the safety of prisoners, the discipline of the gaol, and preservation of the public property, which is deemed desirable, &c.

Sec. 1. Empowers the governor and council, on or before the 1st day of September 1837, and annually thereafter, of appointment discreet persons, of whom shall be residents of the city of Baltimore, and residents of Baltimore county, three of whom shall be competent to perform the duties prescribed by this act, to be styled The Visitors and Governors of the Gaol of Baltimore County. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from said city or county, of any of said visitors within the year for which he or they shall be appointed, the governor and council to appoint the successor or successors from said city or county as the case may be.

FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.

The Emperor's arrival here on Tuesday in 43 days from Rio Janeiro. Through the politeness of an officer from the frigate Brandywine, who returned by the brig in possession of all health we have obtained the following intelligence.

An embargo for two weeks had been laid in Rio, by order of the Emperor Don Pedro. The Brandywine at that time in port. Capt Jones was ordered not to leave the harbour but immediately get under weigh for that purpose, being prepared to repel any attack that might be made—when the Emperor sent a polite request to Captain Jones, to remain in port 24 hours, which he complied with.

The Emperor left Rio Janeiro for Rio Grand and St. Salvador in the Don Pedro 74, the frigate Isabella in company, taking with him the greater part of his German troops.

A minister from Great Britain (Capt Ponsonby, R. N.) had arrived at Rio, for the purpose of treating with the Emperor for the Banda Oriental, but failed.

Left at Rio Frigate Macedonian, Corvette Cyane, and sloop Boston—all well.

A rumour had prevailed previous to the Embargo that Admiral Brown had arrived at the harbour, which proved to be untrue, but produced great alarm. He was however daily expected with the Chilean fleet.

Sailing Master Mallone, of the Vincennes, died on the passage out. The Vincennes is stated to be a fast sloop, and a first rate vessel of her class.

FOREIGN.

WAR IN EUROPE.

The arrival of the Florida packet ship, in 26 days from Liverpool, brings us papers from London to the evening of the 14th December inclusive, which furnish the important intelligence, that Portugal, having been invaded by Spain, had called upon the British government in conformity with its treaties of alliance, for aid; and that the latter forthwith, and without delay, answered the call.

Mr. Canning made a generous, manly and liberal speech to the House of Commons, in calling upon them to support the Government in the steps it had taken to sustain the ancient ally of England; and it is a remarkable circumstance, as stated in the Times, that out of 300 and more members assembled, not more than four voices objected to the address, re-echoing the message of the King.

It is not to be disguised that this step in Europe is of the greatest moment to us, and every eye in this country will at once be turned towards Cuba, the one possession of Spain that can alone compensate Great Britain for the expenses and evils of a war with that power—a jewel alike rich and undefended.

Mr. Canning takes, it will be observed, the distinction, and insists upon it that this is a war, not against Spain, but in defence of Portugal—not of aggression, but of repression—and if the ground be adhered to, it would exclude the idea of conquest. But the temptation is great—the facilities great—the prize invaluable. On the other hand, France and the United States will not, cannot acquiesce in the Island of Cuba's passing under British dominion, and an attempt therefore to wrest that Island from Spain, unless under the most positive and substantial pledges that its independence, under the guaranty of all the three nations, shall be the consequence, will lead most certainly to universal war.

It is proper, however, to say, that according to the London papers of different politics, it was not anticipated that the war would involve other powers, or be of long duration. The Times says:—

A presentiment appears to exist throughout London that the contest will be brought to a speedy ending, by the submission of Ferdinand and his Camarilla to whatever terms may have been proposed to him by England, France and Portugal united.

And the Courier of the 14th ult. thus speaks:—

It then argues from the tone of the king of France's message, and other considerations, that France would acquiesce in the course of Great Britain, and thus concludes:—

Having said thus much, it seems scarcely necessary to advert to one of the prevailing rumours of the day. But as it is talked of, and may be believed, by some, that a loan is forthwith to be raised—we take this opportunity of stating, positively, that no such measure is in contemplation. Not only is the rumour unfounded, as regards any present intention of government, but his Majesty's ministers do not even anticipate any thing that can

DEATHS IN BALTIMORE IN 1836.

The Baltimore Board of Health have published their bill of mortality for that city. It shows that the total number of deaths in Baltimore from the 1st of January 1836 to the 1st of January 1837, amounted to 1,932. Of this number 326 were coloured people—149 free, and 97 slaves. Three hundred and six of the white number, died of consumption.

The instances of longevity exhibited in the subjoined table, noticing the ages of those who died in the course of the above named period, furnish fair evidence of the general healthfulness of this climate. Upwards of 111 lived beyond the number of days allotted to man.

JUDGES OF THE CITY COURT.

Mr. Heath—A bill further supplementary to the act to provide for the administration of justice in the case of crimes and misdemeanors in the city of Baltimore.

Sec. 1. Empowers either of the judges of Baltimore city court, to hold said court at the trial of causes, and to adjourn from time to time in the same manner the chief judge can now do.

Sec. 2. Authorizes either of said judges to issue writs of habeas corpus, and to hear and determine questions arising thereon, in the same manner the chief judge can now do.

Sec. 3. The executive not to permit books to be taken from the library except by members of the executive or of the legislature.

Sec. 4. Librarian to keep a register of books taken away, and the persons taking them to register their names. Ten days after the adjournment of the legislature, all books taken away to be collected by the librarian.

Sec. 5. Librarian annually, at the meeting of the legislature, to report a schedule of books in the library.

Sec. 6. The executive authorized to fix the compensation of the librarian.

TABLE OF AGES.

Still born,	92
Under one year	412
Between one and two,	171
- two and five,	138
- five and ten,	71
- ten and twenty-one,	117
- twenty-one and thirty,	178
- thirty and forty,	230
- forty and fifty,	178
- fifty and sixty,	131
- sixty and seventy,	85
- seventy and eighty,	59
- eighty and ninety,	41
- ninety and one hundred,	9
- over one hundred,	2

ELECTIONS.

At the elections which took place on the 10th instant to fill three vacancies in the present legislature, the following gentlemen were elected:—

Edward Griffith, esq. of Dorchester county, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. John R. Pitt.

Richard W. Ringgold, esq. of Kent county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Mann.

Alexander M. Libbenny, esq. of Frederick county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Cockey.

STATE SENATOR.

Thomas Kennedy, esq. of Washington county, has been elected by the senate of this state, a member thereof, to supply the vacancy of Daniel Sprigg, esq. who declined to serve.

U. S. SENATOR.

Richard W. Van Jan. 13
The Senatorial Election resulted today in the election of John Tyler, Governor of Virginia.

ATTEMPT TO SHOOT THE KING OF FRANCE.

Of the tenor of the king of France's speech our readers will judge for themselves. It speaks unequivocally of his purpose to unite his efforts with those of his allies, to put an end to the disturbances in the peninsula, and to prevent their consequences. And the king of England in his message to Parliament speaks of his efforts to prevent hostilities, as having been made in conjunction with those of his Majesty's ally, the king of France. The only sentence in the French King's Speech that may be considered equivocal, is that at the close, where allusion is made to the "warlike virtues of France," if honour should oblige her to display them.

BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS.

Message from his Majesty.—Earl Bathurst informed the House that he had to deliver a Message from his Majesty.

GEORGE R.

His Majesty acquaints the House of Lords, that his Majesty has received an earnest application from the Princess Regent of Portugal, claiming, in virtue of the ancient obligations of alliance and amity subsisting between his Majesty and the Crown of Portugal, his Majesty's aid against an hostile aggression on Spain.

His Majesty has exerted himself for some time past, in conjunction with his Majesty's ally, the King of France, to prevent such an aggression, and repeated assurances have been given by the Court of Madrid, of the determination of his Catholic majesty neither to commit, nor allow to be committed, from his Catholic majesty's territory, any aggression against Portugal.

But his Majesty has learnt with deep concern, that notwithstanding these assurances, hostile inroads into the territory of Portugal have been concerted in Spain, and have been executed under the eyes of Spanish authorities by Portuguese regiments, which had deserted to Spain, and which the Spanish government had repeatedly, and solemnly, engaged to disarm and to disperse.

His Majesty leaves no effort unexhausted to awaken the Spanish Government to the dangerous consequences of this apparent connivance.

His Majesty makes this communication to the House of Lords with the full and entire confidence, that the House of Lords will afford to his Majesty their cordial concurrence and support in maintaining the faith of treaties, and in securing, against foreign hostility, the safety and independence of the kingdom of Portugal—the oldest ally of Great Britain.

PORTUGAL.

Intelligence from Lisbon to Dec. 6th, had reached England, bringing accounts of the operations of the rebels in Portugal, which seem to have thrown that capital into a state of uncommon excitement. The only movements to which any serious importance attaches have been in Tras-os-Montes, where a body of the insurgent force, under the Marquis de Chaves made a rapid advance upon Braganza, which city they entered and plundered, after having defeated in a severe contest, the troops which had been hastily collected to meet them, whom they compelled to retire into the citadel. The traitors seem to have displayed the most inveterate hostility against the English residents. One of them, a woolen house of great respectability, has lost £25,000. The family was insulted—The merchant is now in the castle, with other unfortunates, besieged by these renegades, and if they succeed, every one of them it is expected will be put to death. A detachment, which entered Portugal from Badajoz and surprised Villa Vicosa, had again retreated to the Spanish side of Guadiana. No attack appears to have been made on the Algarves, where the people seem, from the late events there, to be favourable to the constitution.

As some new and extensive territory shall take place, it is to be hoped that the force from England will reach Portugal before the rebels have made any progress to the south of the Douro. Cut from the proximity of Oporto to the main force of the disaffected, apprehensions are entertained for its safety.

London Dec. 14.
Lt. Gen. Sir Wm. Henry (Clinton), commands the troops destined for Portugal.

IMPORTANT NEWS.

An arrival from Cumana has brought important advices from that section of Colombia. A battle took place on the 19th ult. between the troops under Gen. Bermudez, and the Militia who declared for the Federal system, in which the former were defeated, and Gen. Bermudez obliged to fly to Barcelona.

MARRIED.

On Tuesday evening the 9th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Rafferty, Dr. Richard Marriott, to Miss Margaret Stewart.

MARRIED.

On Thursday evening the 11th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Rafferty, David McCulloch Brogden, Esq. to Miss Margaret Sellman, both of this county.

OBITUARY.

Died, last week, at his residence in this county, Mr. Cassius Howland, of Erie, formerly a Delegate to the Legislature of this state.



GEORGE TOWN, WASHINGTON & ANNAPOLIS Mail Stage.

The Proprietors respectfully inform the public, that they have procured new Post Coaches, and commenced running the route with three sets of horses, instead of two sets as heretofore, by which the stage will arrive in three hours less time than formerly.

The stage will start from the office, next door to the Union Tavern, in Georgetown, at six, and from the office next door to Brown's Hotel in Washington to City Hall past six o'clock, A. M. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays—Breakfast at Centreville, and passing through the town of Upper Marlborough and Queen Anne, arrive at Annapolis to dinner at three o'clock. Returning leave Williamstown Hotel in Annapolis at 6 o'clock, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays—Breakfast at Queen Anne and arrive at Washington to dinner at 3 o'clock.

In announcing this arrangement, the proprietors assure the public it is their determination to keep comfortable stages, good horses, skillful, sober and attentive drivers, and to make every possible exertion to promote the comfort and convenience of passengers, and to render this line worthy of their patronage and support. Fare through \$4 All Baggage at the risk of the owners thereof.
James Williamson, & Co.
Jan 18

State of Maryland,

Charles County, to wit
I hereby certify, that R. W. McPherson of said county, brought before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace for said county, a SLACK

gelding, about six years old, fourteen hands two inches high, switch tail, black, trot and canters. Given under my hand this 14th of October 1836.

John F. Dunnington
The owner of the above described horse, is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take away.

R. W. McPherson.

Runaway.

Was committed to my custody on the 20th of December, as a runaway, a negro man by the name of Bob, five feet five inches high, of yellowish complexion, about 30 years of age, who says he belongs to Robert Dobbin on the Upper Annapolis river, Westmoreland county, state of Virginia. Said fellow has no perceptible flesh marks, his clothing consists of a tawnyish round hat, a blue striped, striped, indy vest, blue cloth trousers, and red shoes and stockings, and old wool hat. His owner is hereby notified to release him from jail, by proving property, paying charges, &c. he will otherwise be discharged, according to law.

R. Welch of Annapolis, 3d January, 1837.