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THE RE-CAPTORS OF THE FRIGATE PHILADELPHIA.

It will be seen from our abstract of congressional proceedings, that the bill appropriating \$100,000 to the widow of Commodore Decatur, commander of the U. States Schooner Intrepid, and to the officers and crew of the same, for the capture and destruction of the frigate Philadelphia, in the harbour of Tripoli, has been taken up by the House in a manner which indicates its speedy passage. This subject has been before Congress for several years past, and we hope it will now be disposed of by the payment of the money specified in the bill. In truth, money cannot compensate for the glory which that achievement has conferred upon the American name, and the influence it has had in laying the foundation of our gallant Navy. The bill provides that \$31,412 34 shall be paid to the widow of Commodore Decatur; \$12,554 96 in equal proportions, to James Lawrence, Joseph Bainbridge and Jonathan Thorn, or their legal representatives; \$14,958 28, in equal proportions, to Lewis Heerman, Ralph Izard, William Wiley, William Hook and Edward Kellar, or their legal representatives; \$12,215 93 to Thomas McDonough, Charles Morris, John Davis, John Rowe, Alexander Lawes, Thomas O. Anderson, James Metcalf, Nicholas Brown and Joseph Byrd, or their legal representatives; \$11,974 89 to George Crawford, George Brown, John Newman, Paul Frazier, Solomon Wren, Duncan Mansfield, S. Catalino, Samuel Endicote, James Wilson, John Ford, and Richard Doyle, or their legal representatives; \$12,773 58 to forty-two seamen and marines, or their legal representatives. Total \$100,000.

Among the names of the little band on board the Intrepid, will be recognized those of four captains in our Navy, either living or dead, viz: Decatur, the captor of the Macedonian; Lawrence, who in the hour of death bequeathed to his country the motto "Don't give up the ship;" McDonough, the hero of Lake Champlain; Morris, distinguished by various acts of bravery and skill, and not least by "the escape of the Constitution," when under his command, from several heavy ships of the enemy which had marked her for their prey. *Jour. Com.*

"At length did cross an Albatross,
Through the fog it came;
As it had been a Christian soul,
We hailed it in God's name."

Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner.

On the 5th of May, 1831, in lat. 38, 10 South, lon. 54, 3, West, an Albatross was taken by some of the crew of the ship John, Capt. Almy, lately arrived at this port, having attached to its neck a circular piece of pine shingle, about five inches in diameter, with the following inscription, neatly cut and linearly arranged:

"Lat. 31, 10 Ferrier 1830, Mariland du Havre, 2,000 Barils, long. 0 12."

If the obvious supposition be correct that this singular chronicle was attached at the place marked upon it the bird had borne it a distance not less than 5000 miles. But perhaps in the meantime it has also taken a trip to Kamschatka or Bhering's straits as it is said to be the custom of these birds to do annually in the month of June. It is variously known among seafaring men, as the "Frigate bird," the "man-of-war bird," and the "Cape sheep." It is able to fly over a vast space, but it usually flies near the surface of the sea, as it has a particular love for the inhabitants of the marine regions. In the pursuit of its prey it goes to a great distance from land, and at night, settles down upon the waves and sleeps. It thus passes most of its life at sea, and perhaps hardly knows more of the shore than our most indefatigable whalers. It is described as the very emblem of gluttony, and where food is found abundantly, it gorges itself so as to be unable to fly or swim. It is sometimes seen in this sufficed condition with a fish partly swallowed and partly hanging out of its mouth. The Albatross is the playmate of the sailors and they look upon it with a superstitious respect, tho' it would seem with less awe of the consequences of its destruction than might be inferred from a perusal of the incomprehensible poem which has furnished the motto prefixed to this paragraph. *New Bedford Mercury.*

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Wednesday, February 29th, 1832.
The house met. Present, the same members as on yesterday.
Mr. Bowers presented the petition of Elizabeth Stewart, of the city of Baltimore, praying the passage of an act to divorce her from her husband Joseph Stewart.
Mr. Laurensen presented the memorial of John Lamb, of the city of Baltimore, praying a special act of insolvency.
Mr. Hood presented the memorial of sundry citizens of Anne Arundel county, praying the passage of a law, to shut up part of a road therein mentioned.
Mr. Bell presented the petition of Nancy Jones, praying to be placed on the pension roll.
Mr. Ely presented petitions of sundry citizens of the first election district of Baltimore county, praying for an act to amend the law establishing public free schools in said district.
Mr. Laurensen presented the memorial of William Patterson and others, of the city of Baltimore, relative to the limits of direct taxation in said city.
Mr. Johns presented the petition of Abraham Jarrett, of Harford county, relating to cases of equity in said county.
Mr. Holmes presented the petition of sundry citizens of Baltimore county, praying an act to authorize the commissioners of said county, to levy a sum of money sufficient to repair a bridge over the Great Gunpowder Falls.
Mr. Hunt presented the petition of Fielding Lucas, Jr. and others, of the city of Baltimore, praying the passage of an act to incorporate the Type and Stereotype Manufacturing Company.
And Mr. Wootton presented the petition of Deborah Simpson, of Prince George's county, praying to be placed on the pension list of said county.
Mr. Willson, of Montgomery, obtained leave to bring in a supplement to the act, entitled, "An act to provide for electing commissioners for Washington county, and prescribing their powers and duties."
Mr. Amos obtained leave to bring in a bill, to provide for taking the sense of the people of this state, on the expediency of calling a convention to reform the constitution of Maryland, and for other purposes.
Mr. Hunt obtained leave to bring in a bill, to authorize the levy court of Worcester county, to draw from the treasury, or from any of the banks of this state, any amount of money which is and may be allotted by the treasurer of this state, for the use of free schools in said county.
Mr. Hunt obtained leave to bring in a supplement to the act to incorporate the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company.
Mr. Hollman obtained leave to bring in a bill to prevent any clerk of the court of appeals, or any auditor in chancery in this state, from practising law as an attorney in any of the courts of common law or equity in this state.
Mr. Pearce obtained leave to bring in a bill relating to coroners' inquests.
On motion by Mr. Brawner.
Ordered, That the expense attending the funeral of John Edelen, esq., late a delegate from Charles county, be placed upon the journal of accounts.
On motion by Mr. Turner, of Baltimore, Ordered, That the committee on the militia be instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of organizing, or causing to be organized, so many troops of cavalry as may be deemed sufficient to carry into effect, any active operation, that may hereafter be required in the respective counties of this state, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.
Mr. Brawner, from the committee, made a favourable report upon the bill from the senate, entitled, "A further additional supplement to an act for quieting possessions, enrolling conveyances, and securing the estates of purchasers."
Which was read.
Mr. Moores reported a supplement to the act, entitled, "An act for regulating and inspecting weights and measures used in this state."
And, Mr. Handy reported a bill, entitled, "An act to authorize the Levy court of Worcester county, to draw from the treasury, or any of the banks of this state, any amount of money, which now is, or may be allotted by the treasurer of this state, for the purposes of education, in Worcester county."
Which said bills were severally read the first, and second time by special order, passed, and sent to the senate.
Mr. Gittings, reported a bill, entitled, "An act to regulate ball in certain cases."
Mr. Brawner reported a bill, entitled, "An act to incorporate the Port Tobacco Savings Bank."
Mr. Carmichael reported a bill, entitled, "An act for the regulation of the funds appropriated to the support of schools in Queen Anne's county."
And, Mr. Teackle from the joint committee on the Penitentiary, reported a bill, entitled, "A further additional supplement to the act concerning crimes and punishments."
Which were severally read.
Mr. Brawner submitted the following resolution.
Resolved, That the orphans court of Charles county, may in their discretion cause to be invested, and the treasurer of the said court, is hereby authorized and directed to receive and invest for the benefit of said county, in the reserved shares of the Farmers'

Bank of Maryland, any surplus money of the free school fund, which may now or at any future time remain unexpended in the hands of the school commissioners of said county.

Which was read the first and second time by special order, and assented to.

The bill reported by Mr. Roberts, entitled, "An act relating to judgments and decrees obtained in the several courts of this state, was taken up for consideration, read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

The hour having arrived for taking up the order of the day, the house proceeded to consider, the bill reported by Mr. Hunt, entitled, "A supplement to an act, entitled, 'An act to reduce into one the several acts of assembly respecting elections, and to regulate such elections.'

On motion by Mr. Hunt, the house was called, and the doorkeeper sent for the absent members.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill, to repeal all such parts of the constitution and form of Government, as relates to the division of Somerset county, into election districts; endorsed, "will pass," ordered to be engrossed.

Also, the supplement to an act, entitled, "An act appointing commissioners for the town of Oxford, in Talbot county."

Also, the bill, for the benefit of Marcey Fountain, severally endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments," which amendments were severally assented to, and the bills ordered to be engrossed.

And, the resolution relating to the states claim to certain land in Harford county; endorsed, "assented to," ordered to be engrossed.

The doorkeeper having returned, reported that in obedience to order, he had notified the absent members that their attendance in the house was required.

The house then resumed the consideration of the order of the day.

Mr. Brawner offered as a substitute for said bill, the following:

Whereas, the Congress of the United States have not acted definitively upon the apportionment bill, fixing the ratio of representatives, from the several states in the Union; and it is therefore uncertain what number of electors of president and vice-president of the United States, this state may be entitled to; and it is deemed more expedient to adopt some measure to answer the exigency of the occasion, than to subject the state to an expense of a called session of the legislature—Therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, That for the purpose of choosing electors of the president and vice-president of the United States, at the ensuing election, the voters of the several counties in this state, and of the cities of Baltimore and Annapolis, shall, on the first Monday of October next, elect by ballot one person from each county, one from the city of Baltimore, and one from the city of Annapolis, as delegates to a primary college of electors, which said delegates shall assemble in the city of Annapolis, on the first Monday of November thereafter, and proceed to elect by ballot, either out of their own body, or the people at large, as many electors of president and vice-president as this state shall be entitled to appoint; and the said electors so as aforesaid chosen and elected, shall meet on the first Wednesday in December, then next ensuing such election, and vote for president and vice-president of the United States, in the manner prescribed by the constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the members of the primary college shall judge of the qualifications, and elections of members of their body, and on a contested election, shall admit to a seat as a member, such qualified person as shall appear to them to have the greatest number of legal votes in their favour.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That all persons qualified to vote for delegates to the general assembly of Maryland, shall be entitled to vote for members of the primary college, and any person qualified to be a delegate to the general assembly, may be a member of said college, or elector of president and vice-president.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That the returns of the members elected to the primary college, shall be made and certified as returns of elections of electors of the senate of this state now are made; and the names of the persons chosen as electors by said college, and the proceedings of the same shall be certified under the hands of the President and secretary thereof, to the governor and council of the state, for the time being.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That in case any vacancy shall occur in the primary college, by death, resignation, disqualification or otherwise, the members of said college shall fill such vacancy, by the election of a person from the county in which it may be vacant; and the same rule shall apply and be observed by the electors of president and vice-president, when chosen, as to any vacancy that may occur in their body.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That if any two or more persons, voted for as electors of president and vice-president, shall have an equal number of votes, and no election can be made after three ballottings; that the same shall be decided by lot between those who had an equal number of votes.

Which was read.

Mr. Handy moved to lay the bill and substitute on the table, and the substitute to be printed.

Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion by Mr. Hunt, the yeas and nays were ordered, and appeared as follows: Affirmative—55. Negative—17.

The bill, reported by Mr. Thomas of Queen Anne's county, an act to regulate the election of the clerk of the county court, and register of wills of Queen Anne's county, was taken up for consideration.

On motion by Mr. Brookhart, said bill was amended by striking out after the words "Queen Anne's," in the first section, second line, the word "county," and insert in lieu thereof, the words "and Washington counties."

The said bill was then read the second time as amended.

On the question being put, shall the said bill pass; it was determined in the negative.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, March 1, 1832.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Thomas of Queen Anne's county, presented the petition of sundry citizens of Queen Anne's and Caroline counties, praying for a supplement to the act of 1789, chapter 15, relating to a branch known by the name of the Long Marsh Branch.

Mr. Hunt presented the petition of William Lovell and others, of the city of Baltimore, relative to the erection of a market-house in the north-western section of said city.

Mr. Laurensen presented the memorial of the mayor and city council of Baltimore, relative to the emigration of paupers from foreign countries.

Mr. M'Kinstry presented the petition of sundry citizens of Frederick county, praying for the passage of an act to authorize the calling a convention, for the purpose of altering and amending the constitution of this state.

Mr. Brawner presented the memorial of John L. Dorsey, praying for the patronage of the state to his digest of the laws on insolvency.

On motion by Mr. Laurensen, Ordered, That the committee on internal improvements be directed to inquire into the state of the turnpike road between the cities of Baltimore and Washington; whether the condition of said road do not require, that the gates thereon should be thrown open, and what legislative measures are necessary to effect that object, and if any, that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Laurensen obtained leave to bring in another supplement to the act, entitled, "An act for the promotion of internal improvement."

Mr. Armstrong reported a bill for the preservation of fish in Allegany county.

Mr. Brewer reported a supplement to the act, entitled, "An act to establish a Tobacco Inspection in the city of Annapolis, passed at December session 1829."

Mr. Lyles, chairman of the committee on inspections, reported a bill providing for the appointment of a weigher of wheat in the city of Baltimore, and prescribing his duties.

Mr. Hunt reported a supplement to an act, entitled, "An act relating to the opening of Bottle Alley, in the city of Baltimore, and for other purposes."

Mr. Johnson reported a further additional supplement to an act to amend the lottery system.

Mr. Hollman reported a bill to prevent any clerk of the court of appeals, or any auditor in chancery in this state from practising law as an attorney, in any of the courts of common law or equity in this state.

Which were severally read.

The resolution submitted by Mr. Teackle, on the 21st of February, in favour of Fielding Lucas, Jr. was taken up for consideration, read the second time; assented to; and sent to the senate.

The bill reported by Mr. Johnson, regulating the admission of attorneys, to practice law in the several courts of this state, was taken up for consideration.

On motion by Mr. Johnson, said bill was amended by striking out in the first section, third line, the words "courts of record," and insert in lieu thereof, the words, "county courts, courts of equity, or courts of appeals." The said bill was then read the second time, amended, passed and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate returned the supplement to an act to authorize commissioners to divide Prince-George's county into school districts, passed at December session 1830, chapter 59.

Also, the bill relating to the duties of the levy court of Montgomery county.

Also, the bill to authorize and empower the justices of the levy court of Prince-George's county, to sell and convey the lot of ground therein mentioned.

Also, the bill for the relief of Elizabeth Finck of Frederick county.

Also, the bill to incorporate the Frederick Fire Insurance Company.

Also, the supplement to an act to incorporate the Baltimore Life Insurance Company.

Also, the supplement to an act relating to a public road in Montgomery county, passed at December session 1830, chapter 112.

Also, the bill to authorize the levy court of Montgomery county, to levy a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned.

Also, the bill to provide for the rebuilding a certain bridge therein mentioned; severally endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed.

Also, the bill to incorporate a company, to be styled the Allegany Coal Mine Rail Road Company.

Also, the bill to direct the court of Queen Anne's county, to authorize the sale of the real estate of Mark Benton, deceased.

Severally endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments;" which amendments were severally read the first and second time by special order, severally assented to, and the bills ordered to be engrossed.

Also, the bill to divorce Mary Besore, of Frederick county, from her husband Jacob Besore.

Also, the bill relative to the service of civil process issued by justices of the peace in Montgomery county.

Also, the bill to incorporate the Baltimore and Annapolis Rail Road Company; severally endorsed, "will not pass."

Also, the resolutions recommending Henry Clay, for President of the United States, and John Sergeant, for Vice-President; endorsed, "unanimously assented to." Ordered to be engrossed.

Also, the resolution requesting his excellency the governor, to forward to the executive of each of the several states and territories of the union, the resolutions of this general assembly, proposing exchanges of the laws and reports of their respective states and territories; endorsed "assented to." Ordered to be engrossed.

And delivered a bill, originated in, and passed by the senate, entitled, "An act supplementary to an act, to incorporate the Warren Manufacturing Company."

Also, the bill for opening and increasing the width of German lane, in the city of Baltimore.

The hour having arrived for taking up the order of the day, the house proceeded to consider the resolution submitted by Mr. Teackle, chairman of the committee on ways and means, respecting the purchase of three per cent. stock.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, said resolution was amended, by striking out in the sixth line thereof, these words: "not more than ten."

Mr. Carmichael moved further to amend said resolution by striking out from the word "that," in the second line, and insert in lieu thereof, these words: "that the treasurer be and he is hereby directed;"

Determined in the negative.

The said resolution was then read the second time as amended, and rejected.

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

FRIDAY, March 2d, 1832.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Brookhart presented the petition of sundry citizens of Boonsborough, in Washington county, praying for an act incorporating a company under the name and style of the Boonsborough Library Society.

Also, presented the petition of Samuel Bentz, of Washington, praying for the passage of an act authorizing the recording of a deed therein mentioned.

And, Mr. M'Kinstry presented the petition of sundry citizens of Frederick county, praying for the passage of an act to authorize the calling a convention for the purpose of altering and amending the constitution of this state.

Mr. Orrell obtained leave to bring in a further supplement to an act, for the revaluation and reassessment of the real and personal property of Caroline county, in this state.

Mr. Laurensen submitted the following preamble and orders:

"Whereas, the fourth section of the third article of the constitution of the United States, guarantees 'to every state in this union, a republican form of government,' and all free republican governments, are founded on the authority, instituted for their benefit, and should reflect the will of the people; in whom is inherent, all political power, and who have at all times an unalienable, and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their form of government."

And whereas, no state can be said to enjoy a free republican form of government, in which the voice of a majority of the people cannot be heard in any one of its departments, and in which the majority of the people is controlled and overruled by the minority, which is the case in the state of Maryland.

And whereas, it appears by the late census of the United States, that the whole population of this state is four hundred and forty six thousand nine hundred and thirteen; and of this number five contiguous counties contain two hundred and thirty-eight thousand and seventy-nine, being twenty-nine thousand two hundred and forty-five more than one half yet these five counties, containing this large majority of the people of the state, have only twenty-two out of eighty representatives, in the house of delegates.

Whereof, of course, their united voice could not be heard; and their united will and efforts may be totally unavailing, which state of things is the very essence of despotism, how-