

and Ohio canal company. This, however, I designed to make very brief—as I intended to set forth the merits of their application in the form of a report, and to present this to Mr. Pratt along with the bills, and thus to relieve him from the labor of preparing a report.

But, afterwards, whilst I was busy preparing said bills and intended report, circumstances occurred that caused me to determine, not to do any more for Mr. Pratt than I had promised him—and which was merely to prepare said bills; and further to decide, that I would embody in the memorial of the convention, the facts and arguments that I had previously resolved to throw into the form of a report, that might be used by Mr. Pratt, and he be thereby spared some labor.

The circumstances to which I refer, happened in the proceedings on the bill to incorporate the Merchants' Bank of Baltimore. The memorial of many merchants, manufacturers and mechanics of Baltimore praying for that act, was presented to the house of delegates on the 22d January, 1835—see the journal of 1834, folio 120—the bill was reported by the committee on ways and means, on the 30th day of January, 1835—see same vol. folio 169—and it was considered as the order of the day from the 10th to the 14th day of February; when, as amended, it was passed. See same vol. fol. 237, 244, 254, 263, 273 and 280. In the progress of these proceedings I was surprised at the course pursued towards that bill by Mr. Pratt. I had heard from several of the petitioners, most respectable merchants, who were then here soliciting said charter, that they had understood his opinions and feelings were avowedly friendly to the proposed institution. Yet when Mr. Teakle, on the 11th day of February, 1835, see house journal of 1834, folio 244, proposed to modify the bill by adding the following as an amendment; *'Provided, That any and every condition, restriction, or tax, which the Legislature may enact, exact, or impose upon any one or more of the existing banks in the city of Baltimore, in the event of renewing or extending the privileges of any one, or more of the said banks, for a further period of time, shall equally apply to, and be binding upon the corporation hereby intended to be created, taking into consideration the terms of the act—and the right to enact, exact and impose such conditions, restrictions, or tax, is hereby reserved to the Legislature;'* Mr. Pratt voted in favor of this proviso, notwithstanding the friends of the bill alleged, that such a clause would prevent subscriptions, and thus defeat every hope and wish of the petitioners.

Further—That proviso having been rejected by a large majority, Mr. Pratt, on the same day, see folio 246, moved to strike out of the second section of the bill, the words that gave to the charter twenty years' duration; and in lieu thereof, to insert the following:

*'That the charter of said bank shall extend to the year 1845, and until the next meeting of the General Assembly thereafter, and the faith of the State is hereby pledged, that the charter of*