

the bank hereby incorporated, shall, upon the renewal of the charters of the banks now existing in Baltimore, be renewed, and its chartered privileges extended to the same time, upon the same terms, and with the same stipulations, which may be imposed upon the other banks in Baltimore; and the faith of this State is further hereby pledged to the said Merchants' Bank of Baltimore, that if any new or additional bonus should be imposed upon said bank, when its charter shall be so renewed, that the said State will, and is hereby pledged to deduct from such additional bonus one-half the amount of the seventy-five thousand dollars, and the interest thereon, hereby required to be paid by said bank to the State—which proposition was likewise rejected by a large majority.

My memory brought before my mind in bold relief, the extraordinary contrast between this *friendly* course of legislation, on the part of Mr. Pratt, towards four hundred and fifty odd merchants, manufacturers, and mechanics, of the city of Baltimore, the petitioners for the Merchants' Bank of Baltimore—and the Institution they desired to establish—and the path he had pursued at the previous session in the case of a 'LEAVE' granted on the mere motion of Mr. Pratt himself, on the 29th day of January, 1834—see house journal of 1833, folio 177, 'to bring in a bill to be entitled, a supplement to the act entitled, 'an act to establish a bank in the District of Columbia, passed at November session, 1793, chap. 30;' and the bill reported by him under said, 'Leave,' on the 3d day of February, 1834, see same vol. folio 206, entitled 'a supplement to the act to establish a bank in the District Columbia'—see No. 45 in the file or volume of printed bills, of the house of delegates, for December session, 1831. By the 7th section of the act, chap. 30, of 1793, incorporating said institution, it was provided 'that its stockholders be a body corporate and politic, until Congress should exercise jurisdiction over the territory of the District Columbia, and by law annul said act.' In February, 1801, Congress, by the first section of chap. 86, 'continued the Laws of Maryland in force in that part of said District which was ceded by this State'—and by its sixteenth section 'enacted that nothing in said act contained shall, in any wise, alter, impeach, or impair the rights granted by, or derived from the acts of incorporation, of any body corporate or politic within the said District, except so far as relates to the judicial powers of the corporations of Alexandria and Georgetown.' And in March, 1807, Congress, by the sixth section of chap. 68—enacted, that all *temporary* statutes of Maryland, which, by the first section of the aforesaid act, chap. 86 of 1801, were adopted for said District shall not expire, by virtue of any limitation in said statutes contained; but shall remain in force, as at the time of their adoption, unless other provision has been, or shall be made by Congress respecting the same.

The business of this institution, particularly during the period of the war with Great Britain, declared in 1812, and terminated