

# BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FRIDAY MORNING, Feb. 19, 1841.

**RENUNCIATION.** We are informed that some worthy members of the whig party, who think their labors in the cause worthy of being compensated by good offices, have denounced us as Ishmaelites, because we have spoken of their office-seeking propensity in terms of censure. Now, as we are tea-totlers against proscriptio for difference of sentiments, we can have no objection to their entertaining whatever opinion they please with respect to the course we have pursued; we only hope that we shall never again hear the sentence of condemnation against Gen. Jackson or Mr. Van Buren uttered from their lips. We thought that the war waged against the late and present administrations, was a war of principle; and that among the most objectionable measures of these administrations was that of dismissing men from office on party principles. And we will not do the whig party the injustice to suppose, that they were not sincere in their disapprobation of the doctrine, that "the victors belong to the spoils;" in taking exception, therefore, to the conduct of some of the office-hunters, we wish to be distinctly understood as meaning nothing disrespectful to the whig party. We are willing to believe that the mass of both parties are actuated by pure motives, and sincerely desire to advance the interests of their country; but it is evident that those individuals who condemn the spoils system one day, and adopt it as their rule of action on the next, are not influenced by principle or actuated by patriotism. We do not identify such men with either party—they are mere camp-followers, who go to the field for the sake of plunder. If we hit such men hard, it is because they deserve it. However they may be disposed to make party subservient to selfish interests, or to trample under foot their former professions, we must be excused if we decline to follow their example. We believe in the existence of political morality, and, if convinced to the contrary, should look upon party conflicts with the same interest that we take in the combat of two dogs for the possession of a bone. And yet this is the condition to which the country must inevitably be reduced, if party struggles are conducted for the exclusive benefit of office-seekers.

Whilst, as American citizens, we utter our own sentiments freely and independently, we would not close the mouths of others—and if we object to being punished for the exercise of this inalienable right, with what propriety can we punish another for the expression of his opinion? The doctrine of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies" in political matters, is radically wrong, anti-republican and anti-American. We have always condemned it in opponents, and shall never recognize it as just in friends. Our principles are not to be changed by every current of wind—nor can we cry "stop thief" after one, and shut our eyes whilst another steals a purse. In short, although our morality may appear a little old-fashioned, yet we shall adhere to it in preference to adopting another of a newer coinage.

**EQUAL JUSTICE.** A memorial has been presented to the senate of the United States, from citizens of the state of New York, praying the interference of government in behalf of certain individuals who were taken in arms against the authorities of Canada, condemned and banished to Van Dieman's Land. It is somewhat extraordinary that whilst the interference of the British minister in the case of the Amistad negroes excites the liveliest indignation, congress should be called upon to commit the same indiscretion of which we complain in the case just mentioned. What have we to complain of in the punishment of those who endeavored to revolutionize the Canada by force of arms? They acted in violation of the laws of the United States and of England. They wantonly engaged in acts of plunder and murder; and when arrested and punished, an effort is to be made to excite public sympathy for their fate. Their punishment is a matter belonging exclusively to the British government, and with which it would be highly improper for congress or the president to interfere. We have now a British subject, (McLeod,) confined in prison and indicted for murder, on the supposition that he was concerned in the intrusion of our soil and the murder of our citizens—and what is the feeling which has been exhibited in consequence of the interference in his behalf by the British minister? universal condemnation of the act; and yet our government is asked to take a stand in favor of the convicts at Van Dieman's Land. The golden maxim "to do as we would be done by," is entirely lost sight of by the memorialists, but must be adhered to by government if we would retain our self-esteem or secure the confidence of other powers. We should "ask for nothing that is not right, and submit to nothing that is wrong," that we may in all events, have justice on our side.

**FIRE.** The fire which occurred yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, proceeded from that portion of the Post Office Buildings, immediately adjoining the post office, occupied by the Susquehanna Canal Co., and by Messrs. James M. Buchanan, John Nelson, and R. N. Martin, counselors at law. Owing to the proximity of one of the fire engines, the flames were speedily extinguished. The fire originated in the Canal Co.'s office, and is supposed to have been caused by the intense heat emanating from the grate, which set on fire a mahogany book case adjoining the fire-place. The company's books were saved with but little injury.

**STATE TAXES.** The Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Delegates have an arduous and delicate duty to perform, in selecting proper objects of taxation, so as to make the burthen bear fairly upon all. It is generally conceded that it would be improper to levy the whole additional tax upon real estate; and hence the necessity of adopting some system which will have an equitable bearing upon the whole community. It is desirable that this subject should be discussed in the newspapers, for it is sufficiently extensive and intricate to engage the attention of the ablest minds.

The American of yesterday morning contains some suggestions as to the objects of taxation, which merit consideration. We concur in some of the positions taken, but from others we must dissent. We know that a tax upon income has been denounced both in Europe and in this country; but we agree with the American, that it is a proper subject of taxation. There can be no propriety in permitting a man with \$10,000 per annum income from ground-rents, or mortgages, or stocks, to escape taxation, whilst the hut of the poor man is assessed and taxed. To all the comments of the American on this part of the subject we assent; but we think the principle erroneous, that "the average annual value of a farmer's crops should be assessed instead of his land." We will suppose a case. A wealthy man owns some fifty or sixty acres of land in the vicinity of Baltimore, which, with the improvements, are valued at ten, fifteen, or twenty thousand dollars.—This is held as a place of retreat and recreation, and is an expense to the occupant, instead of being productive. If the principle contended for were adopted, this farm would escape being taxed, whilst the gardener's ten-acre lot, being better cultivated, and more productive, would yield something for taxation. If an income-tax were adopted, it is questionable whether, in the case of the farmer, his land and the products of it will not both be subject to taxation. If a house in town yield an income to its owner—say \$1,000 per annum, will not both house and income be taxed? We think it doubtful, nor do we say that it would be just. If the crop of the farmer is to be assessed, instead of his land, by the same rule, the rent of a house should be taxed instead of the house. But there is one material objection to this system: in the case of rented farms, the tenant would pay the tax instead of the landlord.—Now, an income and direct tax might embrace both; though the true policy is to bear as lightly as possible upon the poorer classes of society.—Articles of luxury are proper subjects of taxation, as the American states.

The taxes which are about to be laid upon the people of Maryland will be permanent, or, at least, must be continued for many years; it is, therefore, important that the system of taxation should be devised with great care and caution.—We are glad to see that the editors of the American have taken the subject in hand, as we think that their views will arrest the attention of the Committee of Ways and Means. The system should be as comprehensive as possible, making the taxes fall heaviest on those who are best able to pay. The old system was extremely defective, as, in some instances, men were made to pay for property they did not own. Thus, the owner of a tract of land valued at \$10,000, was compelled to pay a tax on that amount, whilst it was mortgaged for one-half, and the mortgagee escaped without paying anything. This injustice should be guarded against in the tax-bills about to be passed.

**THE THALIAN BALL.** We attended this ball and were highly pleased with the neat manner in which it was conducted. The number present was not large, though sufficiently so for comfort and convenience. Miss D. V. was there with two black eyes, only equalled in beauty by a pair of blushing cheeks beneath them. Miss H. of up town and Miss H. of Fell's Point were fair representatives from these two quarters. Miss T., we are of opinion, shot an arrow where it may be effective. Miss W. was grace in all her movements. Little Miss Z. of the Point was decidedly the nimblest. She dances exquisitely. Miss F., that fair form in black, we judge, touched the vibrating chord which regulates the heart of Mr. M., with the frock coat. Miss J. is beautiful without paint—she can draw the inference. We were pleased with her dancing, and struck with her winning smile. That young lady whose alabaster neck looked through a thousand flowing curls, caused a youth we "rot of" to bow at Cupid's shrine, and exhibit a teetle touch of the green eyed monster.

The hornpipe by Mr. Griffith was much admired, and in our humble opinion handsomely executed—so was "le petite," a waltz by the same and Miss Z. The music was good, the refreshments were extra good. Indeed, all we saw pleased us—the fair portion of the assemblage particularly.

**ASTOR BREWING.** A "still small voice" may be heard in various parts of our city, whispering in tones audible enough to be understood, that something is not right in the police department. We are fearless in stating that things have been told us in reference to the matter, which, if brought to light, would cast a deepening blush upon the fair front of justice. It is not, however, our intention to implicate any one. Rumor has a thousand tongues, and she may prove treacherous; yet, when she speaks from so many mouths, there is generally some foundation. We would rather defend than censure or condemn, and are willing to put the most favorable construction upon the most unfavorable representations. Perhaps we have been misinformed. If so, let the rumor be disabused. A thorough investigation by the proper authorities into the matter alluded to, can reach the end desired. Let this be done—truth fears not the light, and justice demands that it should be brought from darkness.

(Correspondence of the Baltimore Clipper.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1841.

Amidst the rejoicings of a party, the memory of the great founder of our republic, who belonged to no party, ought still to be preserved. In accordance with this view, the members of the Franklin Fire Company of this city will give a ball on the 22d instant, at Carast's saloon. From the noble conduct of this company at the recent fires here, I have no doubt their dancing arrangements will be equally spirited.

This morning while experiments were trying on Colt's patent cannon, on the east front of the Capitol, the carriage of Mr. Adams came by.—The horses being startled by the firing, ran off and threw the driver from his seat. The unfortunate man was nearly killed. Mr. Adams was not, I understand, in the carriage at the time.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was agreed to, appointing a daily recess from three till four o'clock. So the House will hereafter sit very late; but as for the business that will be transacted, after members have been home to their dinners, it will be small. After a recess, it is really surprising how greatly the talking facilities of some gentlemen develop themselves. Whether *voins* has any thing to do with it is a question very easily solved.

The House then went into committee of the whole, and resumed the consideration of the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill. The motion to strike out the item for the support of the branch mint in North Carolina, having failed, Mr. Green moved to strike out the appropriation for a branch mint in Georgia.

A warm debate arose between the Georgia delegation on the tariff question, during which the amendment was entirely lost sight of. After each of these gentlemen had "defined his position," Mr. Stearns took the floor, and spoke at some length in defence of the measures of the present administration.

The Senate has again taken up the general bankrupt bill, and it was under discussion when this was closed.

An attempt was made to go into the election of a printer to that body, but without effect. A printer will, however, be elected before the close of the session, for the next congress.

**BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.** A meeting of the stockholders of this Bank, residing in Baltimore, was held in this city on Wednesday last, of which *Robert Gilmer, Esq.* was chairman, and *S. T. Thompson, secretary.* The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three persons be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting, whose duty it shall be by conference with the Committee of Investigation, appointed at the annual meeting of the Stockholders in January last, or otherwise, to obtain all the information possible with reference to the usual assets, liabilities, and true condition of the Bank, and to report the same at an adjourned meeting of the Stockholders to be held at this place on the 25th of March next, together with any course of conduct which they may deem it advisable for the Stockholders of Maryland and others to pursue at the said meeting in April next, with regard to the affairs of the Institution. And that the said committee have power to take such other steps as may seem to them advisable to carry out the objects of this meeting. And in case of a vacancy in the above committee, by death, resignation, or any other cause, the Chairman of this meeting is hereby authorized to fill such vacancy.

The Chair thereupon appointed the Committee, viz: *J. SHEAR NICHOLS, JOHN S. DONNELL, and ROBERT A. TAYLOR, Esqs.*

Another resolution was passed, inviting the other Stockholders in Maryland to attend the adjourned meeting on the 25th of March, with legally executed proxies to be filled with names of those who may be selected to carry out the views of the Stockholders at the general meeting in Philadelphia, on the 2d of April next.

**THE NIAGARA HOAX.** The following is from the New York Signal, with whom we agree as to the probability of its being a made up anecdotal phenomenon.

"A most ridiculous, plain and palpable hoax has been played off upon the rascal Bennett and attempted to be played off upon others, but without success. This is another illustration of the truth that he who is in the constant habit of falsehood and of attempts at deceit, is most easily deceived himself.

"The Herald of Wednesday morning published a slip, which purports to be from the office of the Buffalo Advertiser, which commences in the following bombastic and absurd fashion:

**OFFICE OF THE ADVERTISER,**  
Buffalo, Feb. 14, 4 o'clock.—  
We hasten to announce to our readers and to the world, an event in its nature at once the most stupendous and sublime that has ever been recorded in the annals of the wonderful. The Falls of Niagara—the unmatched phenomenon of nature—the centralization of power, grandeur and beauty—the theme of poetry and the material of the traveller—the resort of the envious and the delight of the susceptible—IS NO MORE. The feelings of wrapt and terrific interest with which we beheld the spectacle we are about to detail (so far as the details are understood) were bleaded with those of mournful regret that earth was being robbed of one of her greatest glories, and our country of her unrivalled distinction.

"This paragraph alone, without the inflated farrago which follows, would be quite enough to convince any sane man of the falsity of the whole account."

**WATCH RETURNS.** Eastern District, Feb. 17. No disturbance of the peace last night. Middle District.—Eliza McGuire and negroes John Wilson and Alfred Patterson, were brought in by the police. James Scott was locked up for being drunk, and Augustus Brown imprisoned by the high constable.

Western District.—Wm. Doak was found in the street drunk and destitute of a home, by officer Chaney. Minerva Star was imprisoned at 12 o'clock, being drunk and disturbing the peace.

**GRAMMATICAL.** 'Sammy,' said a fond father to his son who was just studying English grammar, 'our cat caught a rat—in which case is the noun cat in this sentence?' 'The nominative,' replied Sammy. 'Very good—very good, indeed; but the rat—is the rat in the nominative case, too?' 'Why, no sir,' hesitated Sammy, 'the rat sir, is in—in—yes, sir, the rat is in—' 'What?' 'Why, sir, he's in a very bad case, indeed, sir!' 'You're a smart boy, Sammy, you are—you may go down head.'

**MURDERER ARRESTED.** Solomon White has been arrested and committed to jail in Natchez, on a charge of having murdered a man in Autauga county, Alabama. It is stated that he confessed the crime, and letters found on his person seemed to confirm the fact. Two bowie knives were found about him, one of them, that with which he said he committed the act, sixteen inches long in the blade.

**ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STEAM SHIPS OF WAR IN MASSACHUSETTS.** It is proposed to establish a National Foundry, and a Yard for the construction of Steam Engines and Steam Ships of War, in Boston Harbor. The extensive and valuable lands now and long since owned by the United States Government, in Chelsea, have been pointed out as the most suitable site for the purpose, in the county of Suffolk.

**PICKPOCKETS.** A gentleman, while at the Olympic Theatre, N. York, on Monday evening, had his pocket-book adroitly cut from his coat pocket, containing \$100 in small bills, and a check for \$500 on the Merchant's Exchange Bank, and other papers.

**THEATRICAL.** The Park Theatre has been opened again, with the opera of Artaxerxes, in which Mrs. Sutton figures. The National is also open. Mr. Vandenhoff and his daughter are there.

**DEATHS.**  
On the 15th inst. CHARLES EDWARDS, son of John and Mary Ann Bell, aged 9 months and 15 days.  
On the 16th inst. CHARLES ALEXANDER, infant son of Joseph and Josephine E. Dowling, aged 5 months and 24 days.

## MARINE LIST—PORT OF BALTIMORE.

**CLEARED.**  
Fehr Berry, Haven, Flatk.  
Telegrapher, coming up in tow of the *Edwin*, a barque and a fore and aft schooner.  
**MEMORANDUM.**  
Barque *Berme White*, from Baltimore for Rio de Janeiro, went to sea on Monday morning, in 30 hours from the wharf.  
Barque *Tennessee*, Skolfield, for Baltimore, cleared at New Orleans 25th inst.  
Brig *Falmer*, White, for Baltimore for Rio de Janeiro, was spoken 20 miles, on 24, on 7th, lying in.  
Brig *Chaumont*, Ryder, and *Almena*, Howes, for Baltimore for Boston, arrived at Holmes' Hotel, 13th inst.

**THE REV. JOHN A. COLLINS**, of the Baltimore Annual Conference, will preach in Light Street Church, on SATURDAY MORNING NEXT, at 11 o'clock, and a collection will be taken up for the Astor Sabbath School, No. 1. All persons friendly to Sabbath School operations, are respectfully invited. Feb 19

**BALTIMORE LYCEUM.**  
The exercises THIS EVENING, 25th inst., commencing at 7 o'clock, will consist of Lectures, among which will be an original piece by the "author" and a Dialogue between two members. After which, the following query will be discussed: "Which has the greater influence upon human happiness, anticipations of the future, or recollections of the past?"  
Members will bear in mind that they must have their Tickets, which they can procure of Isaac Chamber, Treasurer, Pratt-st., near Hanover. Visitors can procure Tickets at the Book-stores of F. Lucas, Jr., Knight & Colburn, Baltimore-st. and Isaac Chamber, Pratt-st., near Hanover-st. By order of the Board of Directors, O. S. CRAMPTON, Secy. Feb 19

**Western Mechanics Savings Institution.**  
NOTICE. The members of this Institution are notified to attend a meeting (generally to the charter) to be held at this office on MONDAY, the 1st of March next, at 7 o'clock, P. M. to elect 12 Directors for the ensuing twelve months.  
M. PERINE, Treasurer. Feb 19

**NOTICE.** The members of the Washington Temperance Society are notified to attend their regular meetings EVERY MONDAY EVENING, in Mr. JOHN NEELY'S School Room, corner of Lombard and Hanover streets, at half past six o'clock—entrance on Hanover street.  
N. B. Our fellow-citizens, desirous of joining the Society, are requested to attend a meeting on Monday evening next. By order of the President, JOHN F. HOSS, Secy. Feb 19

**Washington Junior Temperance Society.**  
The members of this Society are requested to meet at Union Hall, corner of Market street and Tripplet's alley, on SATURDAY EVENING NEXT, at 7 o'clock precisely. Young men, under the age of 21 years, desirous of joining this Society, are invited to attend. By order, WM. GEORGE HECKROTTE, Secy. Feb 19

**TEMPERANCE NOTICE.**  
The members of the CRYSTAL FOUNTAIN Temperance Society of Baltimore, are requested to meet at Union Hall, corner of Tripplet's alley and Baltimore street, on FRIDAY EVENING, 19th inst. at 7 o'clock precisely. Panetral attendance of the members is requested, as business of importance will be laid before the meeting. By order of the President, J. H. T. JEROME, Secy. Feb 19

**MARION Total Abstinence Society.**  
NOTICE. The citizens of Baltimore, friends of Temperance, and the public in general, are invited to attend the regular meetings of the Marion Total Abstinence Society, EVERY TUESDAY EVENING at 7 o'clock, at their Hall in Emsor street, above the Independent Engine House. By order, WILLIAM F. FENTZ, Secy. Feb 19

**N. B.** The Junior Society will hold their Regular Meetings every SATURDAY EVENING, at the same place and at the same hour, until further notice. Feb 19

**WASHINGTON TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.** On Monday evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That Societies, auxiliary to the Washington Temperance Society, and all others, may feel disposed to participate in our anniversary ceremonies, be requested to appoint a Committee to co-operate with the committee appointed by this Society.  
The Committee will meet at Dr. S. B. Hedges' American Hotel and Virginia Temperance Society, on PRATT STREET above Hanover, on FRIDAY EVENING, 19th inst. at 7 o'clock. Committees appointed on the part of any of the Temperance Societies in the city, are respectfully invited to attend. By order, D. A. PIPER, Rec. Secy. Feb 19

**TEMPERANCE NOTICE.**  
At a meeting of the Delegates of the Joint Central Committee, held on Saturday evening last, Mr. Josiah M. Hall was appointed Chairman of the meeting—when it was, on motion, Resolved, That the different Temperance Societies in the city, who have not appointed delegates, be requested to do so as soon as convenient, and the delegates be requested to meet on SATURDAY EVENING NEXT, 25th inst. at 7 o'clock.  
The Election of Officers will take place on that evening in Union Hall, corner of Tripplet's alley and Market-st. JOSHUA M. HALL, Chairman. GEORGE W. BROWN, Secy. Feb 19

**A CARD.**  
The BUILDING COMMITTEE of the Temperance Hall, will meet at the Hall of the Liberty Engine, on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock. Feb 19 (A. P.) By order of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

**POTOMAC RIVER AS OPEN.** and the Steamboat leaves for the South EVERY MORNING, at 5 o'clock.  
Washington City, Feb. 16th, 1841. Feb 19

**GREAT CURIOSITY AT CHINA HALL.**  
Among the many Beautiful, Rare, and Curious Specimens of FRENCH CHINA now at CHINA HALL, is to be seen, A very splendid TEA SET, (in gold,) in the shell form, an article never before imported into this country.  
Also—An assortment of very beautiful CENTRE and FRUIT BASKETS, supported by Angels, &c. something superior to any ever seen in this country. The above will be found worth a visit.  
E. M. KERR & CO., China Hall, No. 198 Baltimore street, Sign of the "Octagon Picture." Feb 19

**ROBINSON'S OFFICE.**  
80 BALTIMORE STREET, (BELOW FRANKLIN BANK.)

**TODAY.** \$30,000, 10,000, 25 of 2000, &c. in the great Virginia State Lottery. Whole tickets \$10—Halves \$5.—Quarters \$2.50. Drawing Alexandria Lottery, 7. 16th inst.—lowest \$4: 35 34 50 23 74 67 41 25 11 66 1 8 Drawing Md State, 11th inst.—lowest price \$5: 54 31 16 25 50 45 34 55 15 46 14

**GRAND SCHEME.**  
1 Prize of \$10,000 1 Prize of \$175  
1 " " 5000 " " 1500  
1 " " 3000 " " 500  
1 " " 1000 " " 200, &c.

Tickets only \$5.00—shares in proportion.  
For prices, apply to the lottery agents, GRIDDLEY & CO., No. 41 Calvert-st. Directly opposite Bartram's City Hotel. Feb 19