mits of no debate, must be taken, whether the House will consider that motion or not. It is perhaps because of the very late introduction of this practice into the House, or of this novel construction of the old rule, that no attempt has been hitherto made to amend it. That rule, according to my humble apprehension, is at war with the constitution itself: it is the engine by which a majority of this House may be enabled at any time to prevent any question from being deliberated within these walls, unless it shall have received their previous sanction. It does enable the majority to impose their *indisputatur* on any question introduced, in like manner as in despotic governments the prince puts his *imprimatur* on the press. This rule is inconsistent with the principles of our government. The majority being once fixed, it is utterly impossible for any member not of that majority, to have any question he may chuse to raise, discussed. I know very well that gentlemen did assign reasons, and sometimes do assign reasons for not considering a motion, but in private, for they cannot do it in debate—reasons, very good perhaps, but certainly applicable only to the passage of the motion, and not operating against the consideration and discussion of it. It is very true that there are a multiplicity of speeches made in this House, and that they are to a certain degree an evil; but if it be our object to prevent that evil, let us do it by preventing a member from speaking more than twice in committee of the whole, or once in the House to the same question: whatever method we take to cure it, for heaven's sake let us not be excluding one part of the assembly from having their motions deliberated upon and discussed at all. But after all, for what was our government instituted, and we placed here, but to discuss and deliberate the great concerns of the government. It is not, from the very nature of our government, possible that it can act with the celerity of one wielded by despotism; but let it be recollected that this is one of the few sacrifices for the enjoyment of the inestimable blessings which we possess. I say that the practice under this rule is an innovation upon the old practice: and to the best of my recollection and belief it has commenced this session of Congress. In the worst of times, when the rules of this House were changed to prevent particular views of the minority, and especially to prevent the gentleman who at present is at the head of our Treasury, from (as it was then called) clogging the wheels of government, this was certainly never tried, and I believe never thought of; if it had been adopted, however, it would not have been submitted to by the people of the United States. This is an invention which gentlemen may think works very handsomely in their hands, but let it be recollected that like that pretty invention the guillotine, the instrument may be worked upon themselves hereafter which is worked by them now. Considering the decision of the Speaker to have been final, I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That when any motion is made and seconded, it shall be considered as in possession of the House, and the question for considering such motion shall not exclude debate upon it.

Mr. Stanford said he was well acquainted with the history of this padlock upon debate; it was in fact an innovation.

The Speaker declared that no motion had been made to consider the resolution; no question being before the House, the gentleman was out of order.

Mr. Stanford said if he was out of order in this, if his friend from Virginia (Mr. Randolph) would give him an opportunity by withdrawing his motion, while he was up he would make another motion.

Mr. Randolph said that his resolution was simply laid on the table; the gentleman was of course at liberty to make any motion which he pleased.

Mr. Stanford said he would then make a motion which he had felt to be an interesting one to the nation, and in doing which, so far as respected his own feelings, he should discharge his duty. It is, said he, a motion respecting the city of Washington. I have perceived different documents and motions, which have for their object the removal of the mint, the war school, &c. to Washington; and really, if they are to exist any where, I can see no objection to their coming here. I wish, therefore, inasmuch as a motion was some time ago made for the removal of the seat of government, to which I was opposed, that something should be done to further the prosperity of the place, by an enquiry whether any arrangement can be made in the public buildings to accommodate these different establishments. I have drawn up the motion so as to refer the subject to the committee on the district of Columbia, because I believe them friendly to the city and district; I wish not to provoke debate, but that the committee may have the subject under their consideration, that at a future session they make such a report as may shew whether any alteration can be made in the plan of the public buildings or the city which will go to accommodate such institutions as may give prosperity to the seat of the general government—such as the bank of the United States, if its charter is to be renewed, and it will operate with advantage, the war school or military academy, the mint, &c.—any institution which may go to give something to the city. I assure the House that I have no other object in view than to befriend the city.

Mr. S. offered the following—

Resolved, That the committee on the district of Columbia be instructed to enquire and report to this House how far the present plan of the city of Washington, and the arrangement of the public buildings, belonging to the United States can be so modified or altered, or other measure taken as shall go both to promote the convenience of the government, and at the same time the future growth and prosperity of the city.

The yeas and nays being agreed to be taken on the question for considering the resolution,

Mr. Stanford wished now to put to the Speaker a question on the point of order, whether debate is admissible on a question to consider a motion? For himself he believed the gentleman from Virginia had no occasion to make the motion, as it was but an innovation.

The *Speaker* said that the honorable gentleman who had preceded him in the chair had uniformly put this construction on the rule; and it being also his opinion, he must decide that debate on such a question was contrary to order.

Mr. Stanford appealed from the decision of the Speaker. Mr. S. made some observations against the Speaker's decision, declaring it be laying down a principle subversive of all the rights of a minority, completely excluding them from originating a motion.

Mr. Randolph made some observations going to shew that the rule of the House which excludes debate on priority of business is applicable to that which is already before the House, and not to a motion when orignated. He professed himself extremely obliged to the gentleman from N. C. for having made a motion which enabled him to bring this question of order to a decision. When the gentleman made the motion, said Mr. R. I was entirely at a loss to know what his object could be; but as I have discovered his object, I am extremely happy, for if the rule is to have this interpretation, I wish it to be confirmed by the full sense of the House. It is a rule which the British ministry from the time of Cecil to that of the elder or younger Pitt, would never have dared to introduce into their Parliament; yet here it is introduced by construction without due deliberation, I do not say with a view to any certain purpose—God, forbid that such a disposition as that should exist, or that I should suspect any one of a wish to silence debate, not by argument, but by a rule of order. There would be very little chance, more especially in conclave, that the liberty of debate would be more abused in that case than in others. Sir, when we are shut up *in quatuor muris*, within the four walls of this House, what object can any one have in wishing for debate, but to reason? He can have none; more especially if he invite discussion on a certain position, and declare himself willing to abandon it upon conviction of its inexpediency. It is really extremely surprising that when gentlemen are invited to a discussion of a certain point, and none has come under consideration of greater importance during the present session, that they will preserve a sullen or rather perhaps dignified silence, and that reasons which might perhaps shew that they were right even in refusing to come over to our proposition, should be urged not in debate but in private from one to another as reasons for absolutely refusing to take a matter into consideration, a matter which if it be not taken into consideration, & on which if the people, who are now in the depths of utter darkness be not speedily informed, no man can say what the consequences will be. Upon that subject I will say no more at present. I have certainly no disposition to divulge that which the rules of the House require to be kept secret; I will just observe that it is absolutely necessary that the good old practice should be reinstated either by a reversion of the decision of the chair, or by an alteration of the standing rules & orders of the House.

Mr. Smilie made some observations in reply to the gentlemen from N. Carolina and Virginia (Messrs. Stanford and Randolph.) As to the British Parliament, if there were no such rule, he said the gentleman very well knew that the previous question answered every purpose the ministry desired. At present a gentleman in making a motion, is at perfect liberty to speak for an hour; he may argue for the whole session and the House has no control over him. Is not the House, said Mr. S. capable of judging for themselves, after so long a preface, whether the motion is of such a nature that it will be proper to consider it? Some gentlemen seem to have an idea that others are not possessed of understandings and therefore they will instruct them. I would observe that there are many among us who never speak at all, and yet are not inferior in understanding to those who do. However, be that as it may, the gentleman from Virginia has no reason to complain of multiplicity of speeches, as he is allowed his full share. I believe that if we are now seriously determined to do public business, we shall not withdraw this rule; for I foresee that even without it we shall have much more discussion than is necessary. I wish to God that the business of putting the country in a state of defence were the object of all, instead of occupying time with business which can only impede it.

Messrs. Masters and Quincy now opposed the decision of the Speaker, and Mr. Marion supported it.

A message in writing was at this moment received from the President of the U. S.

Mr. *Gardner* wished the message to be read, and therefore moved that this business lie on the table—Negatived, Ayes 20.

Mr. G. W. Campbell after some observations on the point of order, said he should not now take the liberty of recapitulating what had yesterday been done in conclave; but as the business had been stated as important he would say this: that to his mind no question had been proposed in their secret sitting which affected either the interests or the liberties of the people of this country which had not been considered; and in his view no object could be answered by considering the questions alluded to, or consequence proceed from them which could produce any good to the nation. The gentleman asks what reasons there can be for preventing debate when the doors are closed. I in turn ask what motive can be attributed to a refusal of debate when the doors are closed except to save time? Eloquent as those gentlemen who wish debate may be, and great as may be their power of reasoning, they will hardly tell the people of the union that it is so great that they could by it carry us a way which we do not wish to go. Except this be their belief, however, what motive can there be for wasting our time and the public money? There is not nor can be any other motive for refusing consideration to a motion, than that which springs from a wish to transact the public business and to avoid wasting time in attempting to do what cannot benefit but may injure the public interest. I can see no advantage from the alteration of the rule at present. The advantage now, if on any side, is certainly to the mover; he may state all his reasons previous to presenting a motion, by suggesting that he intends to make one. The public then have all the reasons in support of the motion, and have to trust to the good sense of those who oppose its consideration; and of course it must be a clear case before we vote against the consideration of a motion. This is the case in public; but in private there can be no earthly reason but to save time, unless it can be supposed that members trusted with the confidence of the public are afraid that the eloquence and arguments of others will carry them beyond their own good sense; and such a reason as this will scarcely be assigned for their conduct. I wish not to be understood as supposing that gentlemen who make these motions have any other object in view than the good of their country; it is not my wish to impeach their motives, for whenever I do that I do it directly, and they cannot mistake me. But as no good in my mind could have arisen from the consideration of the motions yesterday, I may be permitted to repel the assertion that any possible good can arise from considering, or in consequence of success in obtaining a decision if the motion had been considered.

Mr. Stanford said he perceived a message from the President of the U. S. had been received; as he did not wish a hasty decision on this motion, he would recal the appeal, that gentlemen might have time to consider it.

The question now reurring on the consideration of the resolution of Mr. Stanford.

Mr. Randolph observed that notwithstanding the observation of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Smilie) that he took up more of the time of the House than he was entitled to, which by the bye Mr. R. said he did not think precisely correct, for he believed that he trespassed not as frequently or uselessly as some others—yet he must now continue to be, perhaps with the gentleman from Pennsylvania, of the number of those who did not give evidence of good sense by holding their peace. It had been said, that no motion had been made yesterday involving deep and great public interest; so different was his view—

[*Mr. Wilbour* wished to known what question was before the House?

The Speaker said it was on a motion for consideration, on which there could be no debate; consequently, the gentleman from Virginia was not in order.

Mr. Randolph wished *Mr. Stanford* to withdraw his resolution, as he wished to make a motion.

Mr. Stanford having withdrawn the resolution,

Mr. Randolph proceeded.]

So different, said he, was my understanding of the subject, from that of the gentleman from Ten. that I shall continue to reiterate those motions until I can prevail upon the House to consider them; and when I am convinced that they are improper to be adopted by the discussion which ensues upon them, I am as willing to give them up as any member on the floor. It has been asked, is it presumable that members of this House are afraid to trust themselves to the force of eloquence and arguments of other gentlemen? This is one of those presumptions which do not require an answer. It was however added that it is a clear case—one of those clear cases in which gentlemen confiding in the good sense of the public and the understandings of the people are willing to leave it to themselves. That is precisely *my* object; I wish the people themselves to decide according to the distates of their plain, honest common sense; but I would trust their understandings and that good sense after they are put in possession of the whole truth. Gentlemen may very willingly refer a decision upon a naked vote to the public when the motives, when the facts, I will say, on which that decision is to turn are concealed. I certainly did not yesterday (and I am not concious of having done it to-day) impeach in any wise the decision of the House, or the motives which induced it; very far from it. On the contrary, I always wish to pay every possible deference to the sentiments of the House; and I bore my defeat, if not with pleasant looks, at least with heart felt good humor, and shewed every possible respect to the members of this House, and to yourself, Mr. Speaker; and this I shall continue to do, as far as is consistent with my respect for my own character, and my duty to my country, from which I shall never depart, now or in future. I say that I will reiterate these motions until I can prevail upon the House to discuss them. I recollect a case not dissimilar to this.

The *Speaker* interrupted the gentleman to observe that he had discovered that the message just received from the President was of a *confidential* nature; the rule of the House declaring that in such cases the galleries should immediately be cleared, the Speaker doubted whether any motion could be received till that was done.

Mr. Randolph. I meant to wind up my observations with a motion to clear the galleries; so that in any case my object will be gained.

The galleries were then cleared accordingly, and the House sat with closed doors until they adjourned at about four o'clock.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2.

On this day the House met with closed doors, and so continued till near five o'clock, when the doors were opened.

Mr. Rhea, (T.) then reported a bill for transportation of documents, &c. by mail. Twice read and referred.

A resolution from the Senate for appointing a joint committee to consider what business is necessary to be done previous to adjournment, was taken up, passed, and a committee of five appointed on the part of this House.

By his EXCELLENCY ROBERT WRIGHT ESQ. GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it has been represented to me on oath that an horrid murder has lately been committed in Cecil county, by a certain *John McGuire*, on a certain *James Coyle*; that said John M'Guire is described to be about five feet seven inches high, light complexion, dark hair, boyish countenance and cast down look, aged about twenty years, stout make, strong and active—had on when he escaped an old short blue coat, linsey trowsers and swansdown vest; his wrists considerably marked with the irons and perhaps his legs also, and has lately broke jail: and whereas it is the duty of the Executive, in the execution of the laws, to endeavor to bring all malefactors to justice; I have therefore thought proper to issue this my proclamation, and do by and with the consent of the Council, offer *One Hundred and Fifty Dollars Reward* to any person or persons who shall apprehend and bring to justice the said John McGuire.

Given in Council, at the city of Annapolis, under the seal of the state of Maryland, this ninth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the thirty-second.

ROBERT WRIGHT.

By his excellency's command,

NINIAN PINKNEY,
Clerk of the Council.

Ordered, That the foregoing Proclamation be published twice in each week for the space of four weeks in the American, and Federal Gazette, at Baltimore; the Maryland Gazette, at Annapolis; the National Intelligencer, the Republican Advocate, at Frederick Town; the Maryland Herald, at Hagers Town, and in the Star at Easton.

March 14—2aw4w

PUBLIC SALE.

BY Virtue of a decree of the honorable the High Court of Chancery of Maryland, will be exposed to sale on the 8th day of April next at 12 o'clock at the store of Thomas Duvall, a Tract of LAND, containing One Hundred and Eighty-Seven acres, called Brashears Pacoson, the property of John Turner deceased, lying in Prince George's county, about 7 miles from Bladensburg, 10 from the city of Washington, and 25 from Annapolis; about one third in wood, the remainder in a state of productive cultivation. The terms of the above sale are, that the purchaser shall give bond with good security such as shall be approved of by the trustee for paying one half within 9 months, and the other half within 18 months with interest on each payment from the day of sale.

GEO. PAGE, Trustee.

THE Creditors of John Turner, deceased, who have not yet exhibited their claims, are hereby notified to bring the same into the Chancery Court, with the vouchers thereof within six months from the day of sale.

G. PAGE.

March 16—3w

THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE,

That the subscriber of St. Mary's county, hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of St. Mary's county in Maryland Letters Testamentary on the personal estate of of Comund Plowden late of the county aforesaid deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same with vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at or before the 25th day of September next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 15th day of March, eighteen hundred & eight

HENRY NEALE, Ex'r.

March 25—6w

FAMILY PHYSICIAN.

A new and greatly improved Family Physician, entitled "The Planter's and Mariner's Companion,"

FOR SALE AT

R. C. WEIGHTMAN's
Book-store, Washington city.
J. MILLIGAN'S George-Town,
And *KID & THOMAS's*, Market street Baltimore.

March 28—3w

CHARLES H. VARDEN

MERCHANT TAYLOR,

RESPECTFULLY informs the gentlemen of the District of Columbia and public in general, that he has just received by a late arrival from Philadelphia,

A CHOICE ASSORTMENT

Of superfine Cloths, Cassimeres, single and double milled, superfine Coating, black silk Florentines. Likewise an elegant assortment of Spanelets and rich silk Moleskins for waistcoats with a variety of other articles suitable for the season.

Regimentals and Navy Uniforms made in the most elegant and uniform stile of fashion.

Richard Horwell's celebrated patent [illegible] SUSPENDERS far superior to any [illegible] in use can be had on the same terms retail, as at his manufactory.

November 27—tf

PUBLIC SALE.

By order of the Orphan's Court of Washington county, District of Columbia, the subscriber will offer at Public Sale, on Friday the 8th of April,

PART of the Personal Estate of John Wright, deceased, consisting of Wheat, Corn, Oats, Rye, Horses, horned Cattle; among which there is one yoke of valuable Oxen, Hogs, Sheep, Plantation Utensils, &c. The sale will commence at 11 o'clock, A. M.—Terms all sums under 20 dollars cash, above that sum a credit of six months, the purchaser giving bond, with approved security, to bear interest from the date.

WASHINGTON BOYD } Ex'rs of
AND } J. Wright,
GEORGE MOORE, } dec'd.

March 30—eotds

THE subscriber has purchased out the stock of GOODS lately belonging to *Mr. Elisha Riggs*, and will be enabled, from the conditions of purchase, to dispose of them in the same house on as liberal if not better terms than they were sold before. He expects by capt. Hand, from Philadelphia this week or the first of next, a handsome Spring Supply, which will make his assortment complete. They were laid in for cash, therefore will accommodate his friends no doubt satisfactorily.

JOHN PETER.

George-Town, March 16—ep4w

NOTICE.

THE Subscriber being anxious to settle all his business, has sold his entire stock of goods to John Peter; he therefore requests all those indebted to him to call and pay their accounts, *(particularly such as are of long standing, as further indulgence cannot be given them).* His Books are removed to the counting house of his brother Romulus Riggs, where all his accounts will be ready for settlement by his assistant Mr. Samuel C. Offutt, or

ELISHA RIGGS.

George Town, March 16—tf

NOTICE.

PURSUANT to an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at November session, 1806, entitled "An act authorizing the collection of certain ground rents due on lots in the Town of Cumberland, in Allegany county," and a supplement thereto, passed at November session, 1807, Public Notice is hereby given to all persons holding unimproved lots in said town, on which ground rents are now due, that unless the said rents are paid on or before the first day of December next, the said lots will on that day be offered at public sale to the highest bidder, on a credit of 60 days. The sale to be held at Mr. J. Rine's tavern in said town, to commence at ten o'clock, A. M. and continue from day to day, until the whole are sold.

THOMAS BEALL, of Saml.

March 21—eptds