

General Assembly

Thursday afternoon—Joseph S. Peckham, Esq. a member from New-Shoreham, appeared and took his seat.

The appointment of Clerk of Supreme Judicial Court for county of Bristol, was postponed to June.

The committee on the affairs of the Burrillville Bank, appointed at the last session, made a written report, as follows:

To the Hon. General Assembly, May Session, 1827.

The committee appointed at the last session for the purpose of attending to the affairs of the Burrillville Bank, Report, that they have paid some attention to the object of their appointment.—On their first visit to the Bank on the 27th January, they found the Cashier and some of the Directors in rather a disturbed state of mind, denying the authority of the General Assembly, in the measures they had taken towards their Bank. The cashier at first refused to shew the statement of their accounts, saying that he had been ordered not to do it by the Directors; but after some considerable conversation with him and the Directors, about the propriety of their taking such a course, they seemed to alter their minds in some measure. By their statement at that time it appeared that their specie amounted to \$1957—bills, principally of the Bank of Chenango, \$6241—Circulation \$16,289—of which they stated that about \$6000 was at the bank of Chenango, exchanged for their bills. In the course of conversations it appeared to be the determination of the Directors to settle their affairs as soon as they could do it without injury to the institution, which course they were advised by the committee to pursue.

On Saturday last the committee were at the Bank and found by the statement of the cashier that the situation was as follows, viz:

Capital Stock,	\$31,360
Circulation,	9,638
Interest account,	1,081.37
Deposits,	4,927.04
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	\$47,006.41
Amount due on notes,	\$35,082.81
Specie,	2,531.33
Bills of other Banks, principally Chenango	5,120.00
Real Estate,	3,200.00
Expense account,	1,072.27
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	\$47,006.11

The Cashier informed the Committee that this statement did not include the affairs of *William A. Rhodes*, with the Bank, they being kept in another set of Books, in accordance with a contract between said Rhodes and the Directors, a copy of which was reported to the Legislature at their last session by a committee sent at that time to examine the affairs of the bank. It appears that Mr. Rhodes attended the annual meeting on the first Thursday in April, which meeting was adjourned to some day in the present month. The Directors did at the annual meeting tender to Mr. Rhodes, the fulfilment of the contract on their part, which they state he refused to accept, but why his accounts should be continued in separate books as before, and the concerns of the Bank managed the same (as to keeping the accounts) after it appeared the contract was not to be carried into effect, the committee cannot give a sufficient reason, altho' they were informed the reason was, that Mr. Rhodes did not have time at the annual meeting to attend to the settlement of his accounts with the bank.

In answer to a question asked the Cashier by the committee at their last visit to the Bank, whether he was willing to answer under oath, any questions that might be asked him touching the affairs of the bank, he said—“ I shall act my pleasure about that.”

On, and previous to the 21st of April, 1821, their circulation amounted to several times their capital, as appears by their statement book. On that day their capital was \$6630, and their circulation \$25,196. After that time the capital is stated to be larger, and the circulation according to their statements less than the apparent capital.

The Cashier admitted that there had been instances of paper being shifted to affect the annual report, and after the report was completed, the paper was replaced in the same situation as before.

The Cashier did not comply with a request to inform the committee of the amount due the bank from Directors on Saturday last. The committee did not think it advisable to undertake to enforce a compliance with their request by the officers of the bank, being satisfied that the public interest would not be endangered before the present session of the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted by
NATHAN BROWN,
STANFORD NEWEL,
Newport, May 2, 1827. Committee

Friday morning.—Messrs. Brown of the Senate, Newel and Hazard of the House, and the Attorney General, were appointed a Committee on the subject of the Burrillville Bank. On Saturday they reported their proceedings with the examination of the President and a Director of said Bank under oath; the report was received and at the request of the Bank, the subject was continued to the next session. The Legislature however, directed the Bank to proceed and collect their debts, and not to issue any more bills until the subject was finally disposed of; and continued the former committee with full power at all times to examine the state of said Bank, and direct its operations.

Numerous petitions for sale of minors estates were granted.

The Charter of the Artillery Company of Newport, and the Second Light Infantry Company in Providence, were amended to allow them to elect a Quarter-master with the rank of Lieutenant.

A number of petitions from Insolvent debtors confined in jail, were received and continued to the next session, under order of notice to creditors and with a stay of proceedings against their persons.

On the petition of Stephen Levally and others, the Lippitt and Phoenix Sunday School Society, was incorporated.

The petition of John Martin for improvement of the State Laws, was dismissed without being read.

The petition of Carlo Mauran and Samuel Jackson 2d, for the right to establish a Ferry at the South end of Providence, was received and continued under order of notice.

The petition of Richmond Bullock and others, for a similar purpose was received and disposed of in like manner.

The bill to incorporate the Fire Hook and Ladder Company No. 2, in Providence, was read the first time and at a subsequent day similar privileges to those granted Company No. 1, in Providence, were extended to it.

The bill altering Charter of Cadet Company in Providence, read first time and continued to next session.

The part of the act regulating fisheries in Pawcatuck river, so as to allow fish to pass up through the dams at certain seasons of the year, was repealed.

His Excellency communicated to the House, propositions from Georgia and Illinois for alterations of the Constitution, so as to take away the election of President from the House of Repre-

sentatives in all events: they were referred to Messrs. Hazard and Tillinghast of Providence. The bill to repeal the act entitled an act in relation to the Supreme Judicial Court' was negatived as follows, the ayes and noes were entered on the Journal of the House by order.

For the Repeal.—Dutec Arnold, John Brown, Daniel G. Champlin, Gideon Greene, William Harris, Anthony Olin, Arnold Spear, Thomas Tillinghast, Joseph Wilcox, 2d, James Aldrich, George Burton, Bradford Clark, Thomas Howie, Daniel Howard, Jr. Elsha R. Potter, William Smith, Ephraim Thayer, Avery Browning, Edward Barber, William Chafee, George Hawkins, Emery Hopkins, Thomas Reynolds, Nathan K. Stone, John Wateron—25.

Against the Repeal.—Lemuel H. Arnold, Christopher Barker, James Bowen, Isaac Champlin, Noel Coggsball, Nathan T. Dixon, Pardon Gray, Levi Hule, Stanford Newel, Josiah S. Peckham, Jediah Shaw, Nathaniel Smith, George W. Tillinghast, Thomas H. Watson, Christopher Allen, Nathaniel Bullock, Joseph Childs; Daniel Cornell, Levi Cooke, Job Durfee, Benjamin Hazard, George Knowles, Benjamin Norris, Joseph Rogers, Hale M. Sisson, Eleazer Trevett, Joseph J. Tillinghast, Joseph Whipple, Henry Bull, Stephen Belknap, Abner Chase, Cyrus Cooke, Henry Y. Cranston, John B. Francis, Thomas Holden, Jethro Lapham, Thomas Potter, Jr. Edward Simmons, James F. Simmons Joseph L. Tillinghast, Solomon G. Weaver,—41.

The following members were not in their seats.—Elnathan W. Babcock, of Hopkinton; Caleb Earle, of Providence; and John Vaughan, of Coventry.

A charter was granted to the Providence Arcade Corporation.

A charter was granted to the Livingston Steam Boat Corporation, on petition of Wm. C. Gibbs and others.

On petition of Blackstone Canal Corporation, an act passed uniting them with the corporation in Massachusetts, it was stated that of the \$500,000 capital of that corporation, 455,000 was owned in this State.

Friday afternoon.—In grand committee.—Samuel W. Bridgman Esq. was nominated for Chief Justice of Supreme Judicial Court, and declined an election. SAMUEL EDDY, of Providence, CHARLES BRAYTON, of Warwick, and SAMUEL RANDALL, of Warren, were then elected Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court without opposition.

Thomas Durfee, Joseph Childs, Wm. Wilbur, Samuel Clarke, and Thomas Cory were elected Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Newport. Richard Smith was elected Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Bristol, and Samuel Wall Sheriff of the county of Kent.

Public Notaries for county of Providence.—Same as last year, except Stafford Scott, Peleg Angel and Lyndon Jenks; and with the addition of Charles Warren, Wm. Sawyer, John S. Harris, Dean Kimball, Eddy Keech, Amasa Waterman, and Aaron White, Jr.

Saturday Forenoon.—The bill introduced by Mr. Potter, of South Kingstown, prohibiting the Clerks of Common Pleas and the Supreme Court, acting as Attorneys was continued to next session.

A bill relative to descent of intestate estates, was read first time, and referred to Messrs. Tillinghast, of Providence, Dixon and Burton.

The two Houses joined in grand committee, and made a third ineffectual attempt to elect a Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for the county of Providence; the votes were as follows:

	1st	2d	3d
W. R. Watson	32	33	32
W. R. Danforth	31	33	35
W. S. Patten	14	13	13

John S. Dexter, Samuel Randal and Samuel Steere, were reappointed Commissioners of the Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors to dispose of the unfinished business before said Court. The committee then rose.

A memorial from sundry inhabitants of Burrillville relative to Burrillville Bank was read and laid on the table.

Messrs. Newel, Francis and Burton were appointed a committee on the subject of Lotteries

The committee to whom was referred the several Bank reports made their report which was read and received.

The Assembly adjourned to the 4th Monday of June to convene again in Newport.