

der his whole force; and we would ask, is it a matter of surprise, that this veteran Briton should have been forced by the fate of war, to yield to the prowess of the legions of that "boy," as he contemptuously called Lafayette, when his army was panoplied in garments cemented by the toil of a beautiful woman—whose ardent prayers for success had been already heard and registered above?

This unexpected and disastrous turn to the British army, terminated the conflict, and though peace was not finally settled till 1783, the hostile array of bayonets, except in a few instances, where directed by the rancorous hate and subtle cunning of the tories, were then brought to an end. But, though relieved from the pressure of "war's desolation," Baltimore had come out of the contest poor in every thing but the gallantry of her sons, and the priceless virtue of her daughters; but in the possession of these, when backed by that irrepressible enterprise and unimpeached integrity of her merchants, she was truly rich.

In 1782 our townsmen had so far recovered from that paralysis consequent on a state of war, as to turn their attention towards paving the streets, and other regulations connected with building, and the removal of nuisances. A line of stages was also established between this city and Philadelphia. The town at this time contained eight places of worship and is said to have numbered 8,000 inhabitants.

On the 11th of April, 1783, the hostilities between the two countries were formally suspended by Congress, and on the night of the 21st of the same month, the inhabitants of Baltimore town celebrated the joyful event by a general illumination. The barriers to trade being now removed, our citizens were left free to indulge their spirit of enterprise as best comported with their views and interests: and we soon find the inventive genius of our countrymen awakened from a state of lethargy to one of healthful activity. The din of battle had hardly subsided before Mr. James Rumsey, of Cecil County, of this State, obtained an exclusive privilege from the General Assembly, for *making and vending boats to be propelled by steam*. In 1787 Oliver Evans's newly invented *steam carriage* was patented by the state, and the year following, Mr. Cruse erected a *steam-mill* near Pratt-st. wharf.

As our limits admonish us that we must be brief, we shall pass over many intervening events, and of course omit noticing the creation of many of those civil institutions, which arose out of the growing wants of our people, and only grasp at these more striking incidents which demand a place in a sketch of this kind.

In 1790 the Bank of Maryland was chartered with perpetual powers; this was not only the first bank in this city but in the state. In 1792 the branch of the old U. S. bank, commenced its operations here. The influence of these institutions were soon felt in the increased facilities afforded to commerce, the augmented stir which it imparted to the mechanic arts, and in the general impulse which was given to business in every direction of our town. In this year our