

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 5.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — *Petitions Presented.*—

By Mr. Davis, from 115 citizens of Frederick co. for a repeal of the stamp act. By Mr. Heath, for the protection of the manufacturers and dealers in furniture in Baltimore city, and afterwards reported a bill to that effect. By Mr. Harris, from Frederick Stone and Robert Ford, for compensation for legal services. By Mr. Hall, from 92 citizens of Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, for an amendment of the law relating to roads. By Mr. Duvall, from citizens of Harford county, for a modification of the present road law.

Leaves to Report Bills.—By Mr. Goldsborough, to authorize the Methodist Episcopal Church of —, in Queen Anne's county, to sell certain property, &c. By Mr. Harrington, to amend the charter of the Curtis Creek Wharf and Railroad Company. By Mr. Tower, to authorize the increase of city taxes in Cumberland; also, to authorize the city of Cumberland to issue bonds to procure a supply of water. By Mr. Bowie, to rebuild Priest's bridge over the Patuxent, in Prince George's county. By Mr. Kildow, to report eight bills to make valid deeds from the Llangollen Mining Company to John Whitfield, Andrew Mullin, Cornelius Knight, Michael Halfpenny, Isaac Kalbaugh, Patrick Maguire, William M. Owens and John M. Knight.

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Kennely, relating to fines and forfeitures. By Mr. Sudler, to amend and explain the act of 1-49, ch. 35, relating to binding out free negro children, regulating freedom dues to apprentices, &c., in Kent and Queen Anne's counties; also, to repeal the act of 1851, ch. 272, relating to taxing dogs for the protection of sheep; also, to provide for a rehearing, &c., in the case of damages on a road leading to A. Brown's landing; also, to authorize the county commissioners of Kent county to make, change and alter roads leading to public landings; also, relating to the binding out of free negroes, &c., in said county, &c. By Mr. Daniel, to authorize the building of a new jail in Somerset county; also, to fix the time for the clerk of the circuit court to pay over to the school commissioners the fines paid under the oyster laws. By Mr. Plowden, to build a bridge at North Point, in St. Mary's county — By Mr. Roberts, to increase the fees of the jailor of Talbot county for boarding prisoners. By Mr. Harris, to relieve the register of wills of St. Mary's county from the necessity of reporting to the Comptroller of the Treasury the amount of the emoluments of his office.

The bill to remove obstructions in Union dock being on its third reading, Mr. Silver opposed its passage. Messrs. Abbott, Partridge and Askew addressed the House in favor of the bill.

The bill was lost by 29 ayes, noes 12. Reconsidered, and postponed till Friday next.

The Senate amendments (prescribing the tolls, &c.) to the bill to incorporate the Townsboro and Dulany's Valley Turnpike Company were adopted.

The bill relating to seamen in the merchant service in Baltimore, &c., was lost by a vote of 23 ayes, noes 13. Reconsidered, and recommitted to the committee on the judiciary.

[No mail from Baltimore was received this morning. I am requested by members of the Legislature to mention, for the benefit of their constituents, that all correspondence, &c., addressed to them, can be mailed without prepayment of postage, under instructions to postmasters from the Postmaster General.]

Bills Passed.—To change the corporate name and style of the City of Cumberland. To amend the charter of the Ocean Mutual Insurance Company of Baltimore. To amend the charter of the Neptune Mutual Insurance Company of Baltimore. To pay J. G. Henning, of Montgomery county, \$95. To amend the charter of the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind. To authorize a levy for the support of M. J. Paradise in Worcester county. To pay J. G. Muliken, admr. of Owen Norfolk, late of Prince George's county, a sum of money. To authorize the City of Cumberland to subscribe to the stock of the Connellsville Railroad. To carry into effect the 35th section of the 3d article of the Constitution relative to the eligibility of persons therein mentioned. Legalizing the bequest of Sarah Hayward to the vestry of Somerset Parish, in Somerset county. To refund to John B. Nichols, of Anne Arundel county, certain moneys. To pay laborers on the public roads in Talbot county \$1 per day. To authorize the judges of courts having criminal jurisdiction to appoint assistant counsel to State's Attorney at their discretion, and requiring the authorities of the county or city to pay there—no fee to exceed \$100. Amending proceedings in the land office.

SENATE.—The Hon. Clinton Cook, from Queen Anne's county, appeared in the Senate to-day.

Petitions Presented.—By Mr. Cook, from M. Brown and 137 citizens of Queen Anne's county, for incorporating the "Queen Anne's County Bank of Centreville."

Bills Reported.—By Mr. Tyler, to authorize Caloctin Parish Vestry to hold certain real estate; also to pay Hannah A. Constable the quarters' salary due her late husband. By Mr. Schley, to give the Preston Coal and Iron Company, of Virginia, power to exercise its corporate powers in this State. Mr. Schley reported an act to simplify the rules and forms of pleading and practice in the courts of law.

Mr. Semmes obtained leave to report a bill to authorize the issue of a warrant of resurvey, &c.

The bill to establish an Agricultural College in this State was made the order of the day for Thursday next.

Mr. Semmes offered a message to be sent to the House asking the return of the petition of H. Nixdorf and others of Frederick county, that churches and literary institutions may no longer be exempted from taxation, which was not adopted.

Mr. Semmes then submitted the following order:

Ordered, That it be entered upon the journal of the Senate that if Mr. Semmes, the Senator from Allegany, had been in his seat on Tuesday, the 29th January, when the petition of Henry Nixdorf, and other citizens of Frederick, was presented by the Senator from Frederick, that he would have moved the following reasons why said petition should not have been received by the Senator:

First, Because exemption from taxation is a vested right belonging to the churches and literary institutions of our State, and that therefore it is not within our constitutional powers to disturb that right, even though we were sufficiently barbarous in our tastes to wish it.

Secondly, Because by the 1st Article of our Declaration of Rights it is made our duty to encourage the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the

promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, &c., and that the policy of the State in exempting churches and literary institutions from taxation as uniformly illustrated by the past records of her Legislature, is one of those modes of encouragement entirely just and fair to all competitors, which cannot degenerate into partialities, and is most universally acceptable and popular amongst our constituents.

Thirdly, That this body is oath bound, but only to support the Constitution; and therefore it has no fellowship with, and can give no countenance whatever to the members of any order, political or religious, who have placed themselves under obligation looking to the disfranchisement directly or indirectly of any portion of our fellow-citizens because of their difference with us in religious opinion or belief.

And lastly, Because our own observation and experience as well as the teachings of all past history, satisfy us that the only available remedy for religious errors of opinions is the policy of a liberal and enlightened toleration, rooting out in all the walks of life the poisonous weeds of envious and black-hearted sectarianism.

Which was read, and on motion of Mr. Semmes, ordered to lie over until to-morrow.