

Mr. Claude delivers a petition from Ann Mead, of the city of Annapolis, praying that the levy court of Anne-Arundel county may be authorised to levy a sum of money for the support of two female children of Vachel Johnson; which was read and referred to Messrs. Claude, T. H. Dorsey and Duvall.

Mr. Kell delivers a memorial from Colin M. Kenzie and James Smyth, of the city of Baltimore, attending physicians to the hospital in the vicinity of the said city, praying legislative aid; which was read and referred to Messrs. Kell, Potts, Dunn, Hands, Stoddert, Selby and Williams.

Mr. Potts delivers a bill, entitled, An act annulling the marriage of Augustus Graham and Martha Graham, of Frederick county; which was read.

Mr. Kell delivers a bill, entitled, An act securing to the sheriff of Baltimore county the gaol fees of certain insolvent debtors; which was read.

The bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to straighten and amend the several public roads in several counties, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time and passed.

The report in favour of the trustees of the Union Lancastrian School in Frederick county, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur with the report and assent to the resolution therein contained? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Stoddert, the following preamble and resolutions were read.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, December 16, 1816.

As the representatives of the freemen of Maryland, we deem it our sacred duty to contribute our utmost efforts to stem the tide of public corruption, and to arrest the progress of guilty and audacious ambition. Holding it as an incontrovertible truth, consecrated by the wisdom of ages, and rendered impressive by the solemn experience of other nations, that the purity and freedom of elections are the seminal and vital principles of genuine republicanism; and that as the sanctity and vigour of these principles decline, in the same ratio the stability and growth of political prosperity and happiness decay; and viewing with honest indignation, and painful sensibility, the open and daring violation of those fundamental principles of our government, in the virtual substitution of appointment, by a congressional caucus, in the place of a free and unbiassed choice by the people, of a president; and believing that there exists among the people of the United States that incorruptible integrity, and enlightened perception, which alone are able to redeem our happy constitution from the abuses of venality and corruption, and to rescue our liberties from the grasp of lawless power; and being fully impressed with the conviction that the time has arrived when the redeeming power must be exercised, or our great charter of national rights rendered a mere budget of deceitful promises and empty assurances; and trusting that public sentiment, the great and salutary corrective of public vices in a free government, will exert its wholesome influence over that "catacomb of living death" a presidential caucus; Therefore,

Resolved, That the new mode of disposing of the chief magistracy of our country, by a portion of the members of congress is unconstitutional, venal and corrupt; because it changes in effect the nature of our government, by transmuting it into an oligarchy; and because it robs the people of their dearest and most invaluable privilege, by feloniously transferring to a few individuals what of right belongs to every free citizen of the country. That we view such a proceeding as an open outrage on decency, and a wanton insult of our feelings and understandings; and that we regard it as the solemn duty of every good citizen to use all constitutional means to crush this new-born monster of political corruption.

Resolved, That we highly approve of the conduct of those electors of this state who nobly declined acting a part in that great national farce "of electing where no election was to be made, and of deciding when nothing remained to be decided."

By order,

L. GASSAWAY, Clerk.

Mr. Potts delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Daniel Kouser, of Frederick county, which was read.

The bill, entitled, An act authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of completing school-house and purchasing church-bells in the town of Boonsborough in Washington county, and the bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of the rector of Saint John's parish in Harford and Baltimore counties, were severally read the second time and passed.

On motion by Mr. Griffith, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to repeal all that part of the constitution and form of government as relates to the division of Dorchester county into three separate election districts. Ordered, That Messrs. Griffith, Lecompte and Pitt, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion by Mr. Jenkins, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to alter and amend an act, entitled, An act for the encouragement of such persons as will undertake to build water-mills. Ordered, That Messrs. Jenkins, Callis and Semmes, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill, entitled, An act relating to the collection of the public taxes in Baltimore county, endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Jacob Morris, junr. of Somerset county, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments which amendments were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. The bill, entitled, An act for appointing a printer to the state, endorsed "will not pass." And a bill, entitled, An act to repeal and annul an act, entitled, An act to authorise a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of cutting and opening a canal from the head of Blackwater river to the head of Parson's creek, in Dorchester county, endorsed, "passed by the senate December 16, 1816;" which was read.

The bill, entitled, An act annulling the marriage of Barney Deane and Catharine Deane, and confirming the marriages of Barney Deane and Elizabeth Freshour, and William Mannaca and Catharine Deane, was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Ridgely, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act to prevent the unlawful cutting and carrying away of wood and timber. Ordered, That Messrs. Ridgely, Bowles and Davis, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Griffith delivers a bill, entitled, An act to repeal and alter that part of the constitution and form of government as relates to the division of Dorchester county into three separate election districts; which was read.

The house adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.