

The senate then took up the second reading of the report on the bill, entitled, An act to discontinue the donation to Washington college, and, on motion, the question was put, That the senate concur with that part of the said report contained in the following words: "And that the sents of this house, if conformable to that of the committee, be communicated by a suitable message to the house of delegates?" The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Mr. Perry, president, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Forrest and Mr. M'Mechen. 6.

N E G A T I V E.

Mr. Grahame, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Thomas. 3.

So it was determined in the affirmative.

The said report having been read throughout, the question was put, That the senate concur therewith? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Mr. Perry, president, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Forrest and Mr. M'Mechen. 6.

N E G A T I V E.

Mr. Grahame, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Thomas. 3.

So it was determined in the affirmative.

The bill, entitled, An act to discontinue the donation to Washington college, was read the second time and will not pass.

The following message was prepared.

By THE SENATE, DECEMBER 20, 1797.

GENTLEMEN,

THE propriety and policy of training up and continuing a succession of able and virtuous characters for the administration of our government, by the promotion and establishment of literary institutions, must be so obvious to your own good sense, that we think any observations from us on the subject unnecessary. In a free country like ours, where merit and abilities alone point out the road to eminence, and where a wise and upright administration of our government materially depends upon the talents and abilities of its officers, and the virtue and wisdom of the citizens, it appears to us to be an object of primary importance to diffuse useful knowledge, and to enlighten the public mind. By this means people will become more capable of making a judicious selection of proper characters to fill the important offices under our government, and better qualified to judge of the propriety or impropriety of their conduct while in office, and the number of proper candidates for such offices will be increased. With these impressions on our minds, it gives us pain to see repeated attempts made to lay prostrate our seminaries of learning, which have been erected at much expence, and the funds thrown into the treasury for state purposes, when the respectable situation of our finances does not, in our opinion, require or justify it. As the money appropriated to this college was not raised by a direct tax upon the people, it appears to us improper to apply it to other purposes. Under these impressions, we have negatived the bill for discontinuing the donation to Washington college, and we refer you to the report of our committee, which has been concurred with by the senate, and accompanies this message. If you think it proper to originate a bill conformably with the ideas contained in this report, it will meet with our concurrence.

By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

Which being read, the question was put, That the senate do agree to the said message? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Mr. Perry, president, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Forrest and Mr. M'Mechen. 6.

N E G A T I V E.

Mr. Grahame, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Thomas. 3.

So it was determined in the affirmative.

The senate adjourns until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, December 21, 1797.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Dorsey, who had leave of absence. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act to alter the mode of collecting the county tax in Cæcil county, the bill, entitled, An act authorising the establishment of a new ferry in Somerset county, the bill, entitled, An act to make compensation to certain commissioners, the bill, entitled, An act to appoint a trustee in the place of John Cradock, of Baltimore county, who is dead, the bill, entitled, An act to open a road from Middle-town to New-town, Trap or Freedom, in Frederick county, the bill, entitled, A supplement to the act for building a new gaol in the town of Easton, in Talbot county, and to provide for the regulation of the said gaol, the bill, entitled, An act to discontinue the donation to Washington college, and the message respecting the said last mentioned bill, with the report mentioned in said message, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers to the clerk of the senate the following message:

By THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 21, 1797.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE are of opinion that from the multiplicity of business that is at present before the legislature, we cannot, with justice to the public, finally close the session within any short period; therefore, from our great anxiety to return home, we propose adjourning on Monday next, with a view of having a spring session on the third Monday of May next.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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