

OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

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delivers a bill entitled, An act to repeal the fourth and fifth sections of an act entitled, A supplement to the act entitled, An act to regulate the inspection of tobacco ; which were read.

Mr. John S. Belt, a delegate returned for Anne-Arundel county, appeared, and after qualifying in the mode prescribed by the constitution and form of government ; and taking an oath to support the constitution of the United States, took his seat in the house.

On motion by Mr. Emory, the following message was read,

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Nov. 16, 1811.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

The house of delegates, regarding the establishment of public schools as an object of primary consideration, and believing that the situation and wishes of the people of this state seriously call on their legislature to provide, at their present session, some system of education, which, by offering to all classes of society a more economical and accessible mode of educating their children, than now does, or has hitherto existed in the state ; and believing the governments of these states to be governments of the mildest law, founded in reason and philanthropy, upon the broad and beneficent basis of general utility, existing only by the rational and voluntary acquiescence of the people thereto ; we consider, that to rivet them forever in affection to this form of government, (by enabling them to compare it with the slavish and miserable despotisms of the European world) they must, in our opinion, be informed. And gentlemen, as the whole mass of the people, rightfully and justly, are daily called upon to judge of men, of acts, and of measures of state policy ;—for them to judge and determine in all these as becomes independent and dignified freemen, according to their real and permanent interests ; according to their peace, prosperity and happiness, it is also, in our opinion, certainly necessary that they should be informed. And believing as we do, that with light and information, the people are the only safe repositories into whose hands all power will safely remain ; and believing in the necessity (without derogating in the least from the talents of our country) of pressing into the service of the country, rare talents, wheresoever they may originate, whether in the lonely walks of the humble cot, or in the opulence of the wealthy mansion ; and feeling, gentlemen, the weight and difficulty of a subject so entirely new to us ; and conceiving that the sentiments of the two branches of the legislature could the more readily and satisfactorily be communicated in conference than by any other means, we propose that a joint committee be appointed to investigate this all-important subject ; and to report such a system as would be most likely to produce the valuable end of disseminating information among the people.— We therefore appoint the gentlemen who were named on a leave granted by this house, to bring in a bill for the establishment of public schools, namely : Messrs. Lewis Duvall, Randall, Parnham, Stevens, Bowles, Marriott and Groome, a committee on the