

# VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## SENATE.

---

**MONDAY**, the second day of December, 1816, being the day appointed by the constitution and form of government for the meeting of the General Assembly, appeared in the senate,

WILLIAM SPENCER,  
LEVIN GALE,  
HENRY HOLLYDAY,  
JOSEPH E. MUSE,

WILLIAM HUGHLETT,  
JOHN LEIGH,  
GEORGE WINCHESTER, AND  
ROBERT P. MACRUDER, Esquires.

Who adjourn until to-morrow.

**TUESDAY**, December 3, 1816.

The same members present as on yesterday. The members present adjourn until to-morrow.

**WEDNESDAY**, December 4, 1816.

The same members present as on yesterday. Mr. Taney also appeared. The members present adjourn until to-morrow.

**THURSDAY**, December 5, 1816.

The same members present as on yesterday. Mr. Jackson also appeared.

A sufficient number of members to compose a senate being convened, they severally qualified in the presence of each other, before Frederick Harwood, Esquire, one of the justices of the peace for Anne-Arundel county, agreeably to the constitution and form of government.

The senate then proceeded to the election of a president, and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, on examination thereof it appeared, that William Spencer, Esquire, is unanimously elected president thereof. Whereupon, it is declared in the senate, that William Spencer, Esquire, is unanimously elected president thereof.

Mr. Richard Harwood was appointed clerk, and Mr. John N. Watkins assistant clerk, and Mr. Thomas J. Brice, committee clerk, who severally qualified as such. Mr. Gotlieb J. Grammer was appointed messenger, and Mr. Henry Coulter door-keeper, who severally qualified as such.

The following message was read, agreed to, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

BY THE SENATE, December 5, 1816.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,*

The senate having formed a house is ready to proceed with the business of the session. We propose to sit for the dispatch of public business, from ten o'clock in the morning until three in the afternoon.

By order,

R. HARWOOD, Clk.

On motion, Ordered, That Messrs. Winchester and Muse wait upon his excellency the governor, and inform him that the senate are in session, and ready to receive any communications he may think proper to lay before them.

On motion, Ordered, That Mr. Jackson, Mr. Hollyday, and Mr. Leigh, be a committee to report rules and regulations to be observed in the senate.

On motion, Ordered, That Messrs. Taney, Winchester and Gale, be a committee to examine and report on the proceedings of the electors of the senate.

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

**FRIDAY**, December 6, 1816.

The same members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Van Horn appeared in the senate, and after taking the oaths required by the constitution and form of government, and subscribing a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and taking the oath for the support of the government of the United States, took his seat.

The president laid before the senate the following letter from the honourable Robert G. Harper:

*Baltimore, December 1, 1816.*

SIR,—When the legislature of Maryland conferred on me the honour of a seat in the senate of the United States, of which I shall ever retain the most grateful remembrance, I indulged the hope that I might be able to reconcile the duties of that situation with the necessary attention to my professional business. But the experience of one session has convinced me of my mistake; and as my profession is indispensable to me, I find it necessary to avail myself of the opportunity which the present situation of the state affords, and withdraw from the senate.

In quitting so honourable a station, conferred on me in a manner so gratifying, I have to regret that my necessary avocations in another place prevented me from giving my whole mind and time to its duties. This omission, when the circumstances of the case are considered, will, I hope, be thought ex-