

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

cusable. Be pleased, sir, to communicate my resignation to the house over which you preside, and to convey to them at the same time the expression of my gratitude, respect and good wishes.

With sentiments of the highest consideration, I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, very humble servant,

ROB. G. HARPER.

To the Honourable the President of the Senate.

Which was read.

The clerk of the council delivers the following communication from the executive :

The Honourable the President of the Senate, and the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

IN COUNCIL, Annapolis, December 4, 1816.

GENTLEMEN,—We have the honor to inform you, that in pursuance of the powers vested in this department by a resolution of the last general assembly, we have ceded to the general government the exclusive right of jurisdiction in and over the ground and territory on which forts M. Henry and Washington are erected.

The resolution appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars to defray the expenses of collecting the public arms, being found to be wholly inadequate to the object, we have thought it advisable to refer the subject to your consideration. The resolution appropriating money for the purchase of arms having been rescinded by the last general assembly, we are under the necessity of referring to you the claim of Mr. J. Joseph Henry, for rifles delivered since the repeal of the resolution, under a contract entered into during its existence with this department. We herewith enclose sundry resolutions from the states of Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Louisiana and Tennessee. We would submit to your consideration the propriety of taking steps for liquidating, at an early day, the state's claim against the general government for the expenses incurred by the late war; for this purpose it will be necessary to appoint an agent to exhibit and attend to the settlement of these claims. We deem it of primary importance that this subject should receive your early attention, as it must be within the recollection of the general assembly, that the revenue of the state was found to be insufficient for the discharge of military claims and expenses, and that recourse was had to a loan, to meet extraordinary disbursements, rendered necessary for defence. It is hoped that the claim against the general government will receive the attention due to it from congress, and that the provision which they shall make for its payment, will furnish the means for redeeming this loan; should this just expectation fail, it rests with the wisdom of the general assembly to provide the necessary means for its redemption.

We deem it to be our duty to bring to the notice of the general assembly, the situation of the claims of the state against individuals. By former resolutions the executive was authorised to take whatever steps were deemed necessary, in order to recover or secure them. For obvious reasons it is impossible for this department to attend to this duty, and for want of proper attention to it, considerable sums which might be recovered are lost every year. We take leave therefore to recommend the appointment of an officer, whose business it shall be to collect, or otherwise secure such claims. We deem it proper to suggest for your consideration, the necessity of a revision and amendment of the militia laws of this state. It is at all times of importance to have an efficient and practicable system, and it has been clearly shewn, by late experience, that the provisions of the present system are so radically defective, that the law is but a dead letter.

We have the honour to be, with great respect, your obedient servants,

CHAS. RIDGELY, of Hampton.

Which with the accompanying documents, were read and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

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

FRIDAY, December 6, 1816.

Mr. Taney from the committee appointed to report on the proceedings of the electors of the senate presented the following report :

The committee appointed to report on the proceedings of the electors of the senate, beg leave to report; that it appears, at a meeting of the electors of the senate, on Monday the sixteenth day of September, 1816, the following proceedings were had.

MONDAY, 16th September, 1816,

Being the day appointed by the constitution for the meeting of the electors of the senate of the state of Maryland, the following members appeared in the senate chamber, at the city of Annapolis :

For Saint-Mary's county, James Forrest and Raphael Neale; Kent county, Morgan Brown and Frederick Boyer; Anne-Arundel county, Thomas B. Dorsey and Thomas Sellman; Calvert county, Benjamin Gray and Richard Graham; Charles county, Clement Dorsey; Baltimore county, George P. Stevenson and George Harryman; Talbot county, John Leeds Kerr and Allen Bowie; Somerset county, Thomas Bayley and George W. Jackson; Dorchester county, Ezekiel Richardson and Robert Hart; Cæcil county, James Scanlan and James Janney; Prince-George's county, Francis M. Hall and Edward H. Calvert; city of Annapolis, William Kilty; Queen-Anne's county, George Palmer and Gustavus W. T. Wright; Worcester county, Ephraim K. Wilson and Thomas N. Williams; Frederick county, Roger B. Taney and John Graham; Harford county, John Forwood and Jacob Michael; Caroline county, William Potter and George Reed; city of Baltimore, Joseph H. Nicholson; Washington county, Frisby Tilghman; Montgomery county, Robert P. Magruder and Abraham Jones.

John Graham was appointed president, and John N. Watkins clerk.

The electors severally qualified in the presence of each other, by taking the several oaths required by the constitution and form of government.

On motion, Ordered, That Mr. Roger B. Taney, Ephraim K. Wilson, C. Dorsey, Joseph H. Nicholson, and Thomas B. Dorsey, be a committee to examine and inspect the returns of elections, and to examine whether they have been made agreeably to the constitution and form of government.

The electors adjourn until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

TUESDAY, 17th September, 1816.

The electors met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Nicholas Stone-street, an elector returned from Charles county, and William M. Mahon and William Hilleary, Electors returned from Allegany county, appeared and qualified.