

persons owning a slave or slaves for life, or for a certain term of years, from hiring the same to any free negro or negroes, so far as relate to Dorchester county, and for other purposes.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the same was amended by the insertion of "Somerset," after "Dorchester."

On motion by Mr. Ringgold, the same was further amended by inserting 'Kent,' after 'Somerset.'

The motion, so amended, was then adopted; and Messrs. Douglas, of Dorchester, Teackle, Ringgold, Williams, of Worcester, and Williams, of Dorchester, were appointed a committee to prepare the same.

The clerk of the council delivered a communication from the Executive department of the government; which was read, and is as follows:

### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

Annapolis, January, 1828.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Delegates,

The usual period has again arrived when, by the provisions of our constitution, the representatives of a free people, selected for their wisdom and integrity, are convened for the purpose of consulting together for the general good of the State; and coming, as you do, from every part of it, necessarily bring with you a perfect knowledge of the wants and wishes of our common constituents.

That the enviable distinction which you have received is well merited, and that the confidence of the people will be fully rewarded by the wisdom of your measures, we feel the most satisfactory anticipations; and if by an entire co-operation on our part—which we cordially tender you—the public welfare shall be promoted, and the business of the session facilitated, it will afford us the highest satisfaction.

The subjects referred to the Executive by the last General Assembly were but few, and of minor importance—they have all been attended to.

The weights and measures, directed by an act of December session 1825, to be procured, have all been obtained, and delivered in the course of the present summer to the respective levy courts of the several counties. They appear to have been well made, of the best materials, and may be considered correct standards.

We submit, herewith, the annual report of the directors of the Penitentiary, which shews that the concerns of that institution have been well conducted. The additional building authorised to be erected, and which is designed to provide cells for solitary confinement, from which the happiest results are anticipated in the reformation of criminals, is not yet completed. Under the present discipline, (and the building admits of no other arrangement) the penitentiary may be considered a school for vice, where the depravity of one more