

2. It effectuates what we believe to be a correct general principle in free representative governments, that taxation and representation ought to be reciprocal.

3. It is sanctioned by the example of every state in the Union, except one; in most of which payment of taxes is expressly adopted as a qualification of voters, and in others, a portion of real or personal property is required, which does in fact subject the proprietor to the obligation of contributing to the payment of taxes imposed on property for the support of the public expences.

4. It will be attended with the important advantage of furnishing a written evidence of the qualification of voters, and consequently, will put an end to the corruption now too frequently practised at elections, and to the offensive mode hitherto generally used in determining claims to the right of suffrage, which are doubtful or disputed from a supposed want of the requisite pecuniary qualification. We think it unnecessary to enlarge upon either of the above grounds. On our minds they produced conviction with respect to the propriety of our amendment, both in its principle and its policy; and we suppose it sufficient to submit them to your consideration without argument or comment.

In answer to the objections which you have made to our first amendment, permit us to observe, that it was not our intention that it should have the effect of excluding from the right of suffrage any person now constitutionally entitled to exercise that important privilege. The power of deprivation has been exercised by you in the first part of your bill, to an extent beyond which it was not our design to carry it. In most of the state constitutions, which have made the right of suffrage depend on the payment of taxes, we find the principle laid down in general terms, and the quantity of property which shall make the proprietor a taxable left to subsequent legal regulation. In conformity to their example, we forbore to declare the particular amount of assessable property which should subject the citizen to the duty of taxation on the one hand, or entitle him to the right of suffrage on the other. If, however, it is thought more adviseable by you to draw the line in the constitution itself, we have no objection to do so, and for that purpose we submit to your consideration another amendment, which we presume will preserve the principle laid down in the bill of rights, and exclude from suffrage those only who have not, in the language of that valuable instrument, property in, a common interest with, and an attachment to, the community.

Our second amendment was adopted for the purpose of preventing misapprehension among the judges of elections, and to establish a mode of evidence which would preclude any improper interference in our elections by foreigners not naturalized. As you have stated no particular objection to this amendment, we hope, that on reflection, you will be convinced of the propriety of it. We also flatter ourselves that the additional amendment proposed by us will reconcile you to our first original amendment, from which we decline to recede.

Additional amendment proposed by the senate to the bill, entitled, An act to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government as relate to voters and the qualification of voters. "And be it enacted, That every person possessing assessable property to the amount of ten dollars shall hereafter be assessed in all county and state assessments."

By order,

W. S. GREEN, clk.

The bill for ascertaining titles to land in certain cases, and for facilitating the tracing of titles in general, the bill for the relief of James Colquhoun, the amendment thereto, the bill to enable the trustees appointed by the last will and testament of doctor John Parnell, of Worcester county, to sell and convey the lands therein directed to be sold, the supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, the amendment thereto, the bill to regulate the fees of constables in the city and county of Baltimore, the bill prescribing the form of the bond to be hereafter given by the clerks of the several counties of this state, the amendments thereto, the further supplement to the act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, the amendments thereto, the message respecting the same, and the resolution in favour of the securities of Dennis Griffith, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk:

The bill to empower the judges of the court of appeals to reinstate the cause of Job Garretson against Richard Cole, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

The further supplement to the act for building a new gaol in Baltimore county, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

The following message was prepared, read and agreed to.

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 18, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

UPON reconsideration of the bill, entitled, An act to rebuild the poor-house in Anne-Arundel county, the senate cannot see the propriety of receding from their amendments, and accordingly adhere to them, and hope upon further reflection they will be adopted by you.

By order,

W. S. GREEN, clk.

The additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the establishment and regulation of the levy courts in the several counties of this state, was read the second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendments.

Amendments proposed. Strike out the preamble of the bill. Strike out from the first word "the" in the fifteenth line of first page to the end of the bill, and insert "species and amount of property with which such person is assessed, the rate of tax imposed thereon, and the amount of such tax."

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