

least, grant to such slave or slaves his, her or their freedom; and that any deed or writing whereby freedom shall be given or granted to any such slave, which shall be intended to take place in future, shall be good to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, from the time that such freedom or manumission is intended to commence by the said deed or writing, so that such deed and writing be not in prejudice of creditors, and that such slave, at the time such freedom or manumission shall take place or commence, be not above the age aforesaid, and be able to work and gain a sufficient livelihood and maintenance, according to the true intent and meaning of this act; which instrument of writing shall be acknowledged before one justice of the peace of the county wherein the person or persons granting such freedom shall reside, which justice shall endorse on the back of such instrument the time of the acknowledgment, and the party making the same, which he or they, or the parties concerned, shall cause to be entered among the records of the county court where the person or persons granting such freedom shall reside, within six months after the date of such instrument of writing; and the clerk of the respective county courts within this state shall, immediately upon the receipt of such instrument, endorse the time of his receiving the same, and shall well and truly enrol such deed or instrument in a good and sufficient book in folio, to be regularly alphabetized in the names of both parties, and to remain in the custody of the said clerk for the time being among the records of the respective county courts, and that the said clerk shall, on the back of every such instrument, in a full legible hand, make an endorsement of such enrolment, and also of the folio of the book in which the same shall be enrolled, and to such endorsement set his hand; the person or persons requiring such entry paying the usual and legal fees for the same. And be it enacted, That a copy of such record, duly attested under the seal of such office, shall at all times hereafter be deemed, to all intents and purposes, good evidence to prove such freedom."

The following resolution was propounded to the house.

RESOLVED, That the governor of this state be requested to inform the executive of the commonwealth of Virginia, that the important public business of this session of the general assembly has unavoidably induced a delay in the house of delegates in acting upon the amendments proposed to be made to the constitution of the United States by the legislature of that commonwealth, and flatter ourselves that they will be taken up in the house of delegates at the next session of assembly, and considered with the respect due to the communications of a sister state, and with all the attention due to subjects of such importance and magnitude.

Which was read the first and second time, and the previous question called for and put, That the said question be now put? Resolved in the affirmative.

The main question was then put, and the yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs	Hall,	Johnson,	Savin,	Nicholson,	Jarrett,	Douglass,
	Emerson,	Hollingsworth,	Bowie,	Brown,	Prall,	Clarke,
	J. Thomas,	Miller,	Duckett,	Butcher,	Driver,	Beall,
	Sherwood,	Wallace,	Baker,	C. Frazier,	M'Kim,	Tomlinson. 24.
N E G A T I V E.						
Messrs	Hopewell,	J. C. Thomas,	Merryman,	Calvert,	Quynn, jun.	Bowles,
	Neale,	Brome,	Worthington,	Quynn,	Shriver,	M'Clain,
	Spencer,	Sprigg,	Ridgely,	Key,	Montgomery,	Reintzel,
	Barroll,	Bourne,	Jones,	Robins,	M'Comas,	Swearingen,
	Buchanan,	Parnham,	Hyland,	Wilson,	Young,	J. C. Beatty. 35.
	Ridout,	Digges,	Campbell,	Brother,	Cellar,	

So it was determined in the negative.

The house adjourns till 5 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The house met.

The clerk of the senate delivers the following message:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 28, 1796.

GENTLEMEN,

WE find it difficult, from the late stage of the session, to finish the business now before us by the time agreed on for rising; we have therefore determined not to act upon any new business which you may send up to us after twelve o'clock to-morrow.

By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That Mr. Key, Mr. Duckett and Mr. Robins, be a committee to prepare an answer to the said message.

Mr. Brother, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for erecting a public school in Frederick county; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed.

On motion, ORDERED, That the supplement to an act to establish permanent salaries for the chancellor and the judges have a second reading on to-morrow.

Mr. Robins, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the memorial of the visitors and governors of Saint-John's college report, that they have taken the same under consideration, and find, from the account exhibited to them under the hand of the treasurer of the said institution, that from the tenth of November, seventeen hundred and ninety-five, to the tenth of November, seventeen hundred and ninety-six, the following payments have been made for the use of the said college; that is to say, viz.

By