

The further consideration of said message was postponed, until Thursday, the 18th of January.

The President laid before the Senate the following communication, from the Board of Public Works :

STATE OF MARYLAND,  
Executive Department,  
Annapolis, January 5th, 1872. }

*Gentlemen of the General Assembly :*

In conformity with a resolution of the Stockholders of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, in general meeting assembled, passed on the 4th inst, we have the honor to lay before you a copy of certain communications from the President of the Company to the Stockholders, presented on the 29th ulto., together with a copy of the report of a Special Committee on the part of the Stockholders, appointed to take into consideration certain suggestions contained in them.

You will perceive from the report of this special committee, and from one of the resolutions appended there, all of which were adopted by the stockholders, that the passage of an Act or Joint Resolution of your Honorable Bodies is requested, authorizing the Board of Public Works to release the mortgage held by the State upon a certain portion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, lying within the city of Washington, whenever in their judgment it may be expedient to do so.

The special circumstances calling for this application are fully set forth in the several papers now laid before you, and we respectfully request that early action may be taken by your Honorable Bodies in the premises.

ODEN BOWIE,  
LEVIN WOOLFORD,  
JOHN MERRYMAN.

Which was read, and referred to the Committee on Internal Improvements.

On motion by Mr. Stephenson, it was

Ordered, That the Committee on Judicial Proceedings be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so changing the laws relating to empanneling juries in criminal cases, as to give the State the same right of peremptory challenge as is now allowed parties prosecuted.

On motion by Mr. Tuck,

Leave was granted to the Committee on the Judiciary, to report a bill, entitled An Act to authorize the courts of this State, in their discretion, to allow the separation of jurors in capital cases.

On motion of Mr. Davis,