

Which was read, assented to and sent to the House of Delegates.

On motion by Mr. Peter, it was

Ordered, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, to inquire by what authority the officers or managers of the State Penitentiary have made a contract with the United States to take convicts from the District of Columbia, and also as to the terms of such contracts.

The President appointed as such Committee, Messrs. Peter, McLane and Freeman.

The Hon. R. C. Hollyday, Secretary of State, appeared and delivered a communication from the Executive, endorsed "Executive business."

The Clerk of the House of Delegates appeared and delivered the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

January 4th, 1878.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

We have received your message requesting that the presiding officers of the two Houses address the Hon. Barnes Compton a joint letter, informing him of his election as State Treasurer, and respectfully concur therein.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,

Chief Clerk.

Which was read.

The hour of 2 o'clock having arrived

The Senators proceeded to the Hall of the House of Delegates to enter into Joint Convention for the election of a State Printer.

JOINT CONVENTION.

The Senators of Maryland, accompanied by the Secretary of the Senate, appeared in the Hall of the House of Delegates.

The Speaker, as Chairman of the Joint Convention, then announced that the Senate and House would now in Joint Convention proceed to the election of a State Printer, as agreed upon between the two Houses.

The Chairman appointed Mr. Stump, on the part of the Senate, and Mr. Merrick, on the part of the House of Delegates, to act as tellers.