

FRIDAY, January 14th, 1876.

The House met, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Steele.

Present at the call of the roll the following members:

Messrs. Smith, (Speaker,) Dunbar, Mattingly, Boyer, Usilton, Hodges, Robinson, Rullman, Bird, Lancaster, Hawkins, Hooper, Baldwin, Whitelock, Curtis, Smith, of Baltimore county, Given, Fitzjarrell, Dodson, Lankford, Gunby, Ford, Lambdin, Smith, of Dorchester, Waters, of Dorchester, Briscoe, Constable, Snowden, Gwynn, Cockey, Neal, Purnell, Onley, Riggs, Hinks, Naill, Koons, Rutledge, Boyle, Vandiver, Culbreth, Goldsborough, Rusk, Lewis, McWilliams, Hoblitzell, McGlone, Coburn, Stewart, McAleese, Gill, Hart, Loane, Chaisty, Harig, Albaugh, Sanders, Fenton, Scott, Farrow, Ranger, Jones, Canby, Griffith, Rawlings, Atkinson, Sprigg, Brooke, Brown, Rinehart, Lamotte, Waters, of Carroll, Donaldson, Clark, Dashiell, Gordy, Browning—76.

Messrs. H. O. Touchstone and Thomas C. Noland, officers elect, appeared, qualified and entered upon the discharge of their duties.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from Rev. Wm. S. Southgate, declining to accept the position of Chaplain to the House.

On motion of Mr. Rusk,

The resignation was accepted.

Also,

A communication from Charles P. Montague, of Baltimore city, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, praying the Passage of a law to render more effectual the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Which was read and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Goldsborough presented the petition of Phil. W. Downs, and 180 other petitioners, asking for a law granting citizens of Caroline county, for the taking or catching oysters with dredges, scoops, scrapers or tongs, in the waters of the Chop-tank River.

Which was read and referred to Committee on the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries.