

the Executive, may conduce to some legislative provision at the present session for a direct tax—therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That they do not concur in the opinion of the Governor that a direct tax is necessary, but on the contrary would hold such a measure premature, unwise and burdensome to the people of this State.

And whereas, the suggestion of the Governor, in his recent message, that it may be the opinion of a few that this debt is not binding; and of others, if binding, will never be paid, because the people will not consent to be taxed; considering the peculiar crisis of the country and state, in the midst of universal distrust at home and abroad, is eminently calculated to impair our credit, to embarrass the negotiations of the public securities, and to depreciate their value in the foreign markets—therefore,

Be it resolved, that this General Assembly will ever be ready to maintain, at all hazards, the sacred obligations of the state, as binding upon the honor and honesty of each individual citizen thereof, and will cordially concur in measures to that end whenever they may be necessary;

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker laid before the house a communication from John C. Weems, relating to his late confinement in the county jail of Anne Arundel county, for debt, and remonstrating against the present cruel and oppressive system of imprisoning citizens for debt;

Mr. Poultney moved that the said communication be printed for the use of the house;

Mr. Hammond moved as a substitute for the motion to print, that it be referred to the committee on insolvency;

Which was accordingly ordered.

Mr. Gaither asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill entitled, a further supplement to the act relating to mortgages.

Referred to Messrs. Gaither, Giles, Polk, Matthews and Long.

Mr. Gallagher asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill to change or modify the existing laws, in relation to fines and imprisonment;

Referred to Messrs. Gallagher, Potter and Legrand.

Mr. Owens submitted the following order:

Ordered, that the committee on the currency, be directed to inquire into and report to this house whether any of the Banks of this State, in refusing to pay specie on demand for their notes, have or have not violated their charters, and whether the capital stock of those banks, incorporated since the year 1834 have been paid in coin, or whether they were, in any instance, paid by the proceeds of the notes of stockholders, discounted for that purpose, and to what amount;

Also to inquire into and report to this house, the names of those who have been since the 1st January 1834, as also the names of those who now are stockholders; as well as the names of those who have been since the 1st January 1834, as also the names of