

*By the House of Delegates,
December 31, 1839.*

Gentlemen of the Senate :

The House of Delegates is ready to proceed with the business of the session. We have chosen James W. Williams, Speaker, and John Nicholas Watkins, Chief Clerk, and propose to sit from 10 A. M. until 3 o'clock, P. M. for the despatch of public business.

By order,

John Nick. Watkins, Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Constable,

Ordered, That the rules of the last House of Delegates be adopted for the government of this house.

Mr. Risteau submitted the following message, which was read, assented to, and sent to the senate :

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Gentlemen of the Senate :

We propose with the concurrence of your honorable body, the appointment of a joint committee of the two houses to wait upon his Excellency the Governor, and inform him that we are prepared to receive any communication he may be pleased to make, and we have appointed Messrs. Risteau and Ridgely to join such gentlemen as be may named by your honorable body to perform this service.

By order,

John Nick. Watkins, Clerk.

Mr. Legrand submitted the following order :

Ordered, That a committee of three be appointed by the Speaker to contract for the printing of the Journal of the present House of Delegates, and all other printing (except bills) that may be ordered by the House.

Mr. Mason then moved the following amendment—insert after the word speaker—

“To inquire into the validity of the contract made, or intended to have been made, with Jeremiah Hughes at the last session of the Legislature for the printing of this House, and if said committee find the aforesaid contract not to be valid, then they be authorised to.”

The question was then put, will the house agree to said amendment—

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Phelps submitted the following as a substitute for said order and amendment.

Ordered, That the joint committee on the public printing, hereafter to be appointed under the act of Assembly in that case made and provided, be instructed to inquire into the validity of the contract made at the last session for the printing of this house, and report the facts to this house.

Which was read and rejected.