

account; but has come to the conclusion to report a resolution for the payment of the other claims referred to it. It includes in the resolution the account of Joseph Robinson, because it has been informed that for several years past the clerks of both branches of the General Assembly have been supplied with pen-knives at the expense of the State; because the knives, furnished by Mr. Robinson, though costly and of superior quality, and because the purchase is understood to have been sanctioned by the senate.— But while the committee has consented under all the circumstances of the case to report favorably on this account, it deems it proper to guard against the recurrence of like claims in future.

It recommends therefore, the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the treasurer of the Western Shore pay the accounts of Andrew Slicer, William Woodcock, T. Palmer & Co., Richard Thompson, and Joseph Robinson, for work done and materials furnished for the use of the Senate and its officers in the Senate chamber; provided, the whole amount of payments on said accounts should not exceed the sum of ninety-eight dollars and seventy-five cents.

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the passage of this resolution, no pen-knife shall be supplied to any clerk of either branch of the General Assembly at the expense of the State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. H. WINDER, Chair'm.

JNO. T. MASON,

CHAS. STERETT RIDGELY.

Concurred in with the exception of Robinson's account.

J. J. GRAVES.

Read the first and by special order the second time, assented to and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate delivered the following messages :

*By the Senate, March 20th, 1840.*

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :*

We respectfully suggest to your honorable body, that additional important duties have been devolved upon the chief clerks of the respective branches of the Legislature, by reason of certain orders and resolutions of this General Assembly, duties which from their very nature, cannot be performed until after the adjournment, and which, if properly performed, must then necessarily occupy much of their time. The *per diem* and the usual extra allowance to the clerks is intended to compensate them for their duties performed by them during the session, and when those duties are satisfactorily discharged, we hold that such compensation is barely reasonable. We put it therefore, to the sense of justice of the House of Delegates, whether it be not right and proper, in any view that can possibly be taken of it, when the chief clerks are required to perform arduous and important duties after the close of the session, they should not be paid reasonably therefor?