

What right has the Legislature to require these clerks, any more than other citizens, to perform duties without providing a reasonable compensation? They, like the members of the Legislature, must return to their homes, and to their ordinary business, for the means of supporting themselves and families, upon the adjournment of the General Assembly; but in consequence of the additional duties to which we have adverted, this cannot be the case at the close of the present session. These clerks must remain at the seat of government in the discharge of their duties after the adjournment. Between the time of adjournment and the distribution of the printed laws, which will not, in all probability occur until the 1st of June, they must from time to time be employed in making copies of "all the public laws, and all the public local laws" that have been and are to be passed this session for the gentlemen engaged in preparing a compilation of the laws. This duty has been imposed upon the chief clerks, and must be performed by them, in order to perfect the work and prevent an injurious and expensive delay of its completion.

Again, it has been made the duty of these clerks to prepare and furnish to the printer a classification of the laws according to a plan proposed by a resolution passed at the present session. This duty, involving new responsibilities, cannot be performed until after the adjournment, and will then require the supervision of the clerk, whilst the laws are being carried through the press, which of itself will ensure a remedy for the typographical errors too often to be found in our statute books. For these reasons which we will not dwell longer upon at this late period of the session, we must respectfully and earnestly request your honorable body to originate and pass a resolution giving to the chief clerks such compensation for the performance of the duties we have specified as in your judgment may be thought proper.

By order, Joseph H. Nicholson, Cl'k.

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

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:*

We propose with the concurrence of your honorable body, to appoint a joint committee to wait upon the Governor and request the attendance of his Excellency in the Senate chamber, at 10 o'clock this evening for the purpose of signing the laws of the present session—we have appointed Messrs. Purnell and Magruder, to join such gentlemen as may be named by your honorable body.

By order, Joseph H. Nicholson, Cl'k.

And returned the resolution requiring the chief clerk of the house of delegates, to procure a carpet for the chamber of the house of delegates;

Endorsed "assented to," and order to be engrossed.

And the bill, entitled an act to authorise the commissioners of the town of Havre de Grace, to sell a school house, and for other purposes;

Endorsed "will pass," and ordered to be engrossed.