

Permit me now a word in reference to the order which the honorable chairman informs me was passed by the House of Delegates on the 5th of the present month. This order directs an inquiry by a committee of the House of Delegates "into the proceedings of Senators Kerr and Merrick, as regards the matter of General Nathan Towson's memorial to the United States Senate, &c. &c." Now, with all possible deference for the honorable the House of Delegates, I must be permitted to remark, that I am utterly unable to discover whence they derive the power to subject a member of the Senate of the United States to the jurisdiction of one of their committees, particularly for proceedings in Senate, or what authority they can give to a committee to investigate any proceedings had in the Senate of the United States, when sitting with *closed doors*, as a co-ordinate part of the Executive Government of this Union. The members of the Senate, like members of all other considerate assemblies, are subject for all their acts and doings in Senate to the jurisdiction of the Senate itself; and no member, however humble as an individual, can consistently, with a becoming respect for the body, recognise or voluntarily submit to any other, short of the sovereign people.

The honorable House will hence perceive the painful necessity they have placed me under of declining to have any connexion with the proceedings their committee may see fit to institute under this order, anxious though I certainly am in all things to be scrupulously respectful to them, and much as explanations, which under other circumstances I might be enabled to make, would tend to disabuse some of them and others of my valued fellow citizens, of unjust and erroneous impressions.

With the highest consideration,

I am, sir, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. D. MERRICK.

Which was read;

On motion of Mr. Causin,

Ordered, That the said communication be placed on the journal, and

On motion of Mr. Graves,

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Buskirk submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the annual report of the President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company be printed for the use of the members of this House.

Which was twice read;

On the question being put,

Will the house adopt the said order;

It was determined in the negative.

Mr. Ristean presented the memorial of one hundred and ninety-seven citizens of the city of Baltimore, praying an alteration in the license law;

Read and referred to the committee on Crimes and Punishments.