

sarily obliged to rely on ex parte evidence and the statement of parties interested or their agents; for if the witnesses and parties were to be brought here and examined, so as to furnish the means of arriving with reasonable accuracy, the whole session would be occupied with divorce cases, so much have these much to be regretted applications increased, within the few past years. We are therefore constrained to act hastily and upon slight examination, when we do act, or to consume more of the public time than could be spared from other matters, which no branch of the government but the Legislature has power to consider.

It should be remembered too, that our sessions costs the State over \$500 per day, which is equivalent to \$100 per hour, for every hour the Legislature is actually in session.

This will shew, if any attention is given to divorce cases, what a large sum it costs the State. In the present depressed condition of our finances, all this is saved by referring them to the courts. We therefore think that every consideration of justice, policy and economy require that the Legislature should not entertain applications for divorces, unless under very extraordinary circumstances, and where the courts have no power to grant relief.

By order,

Jos. H. Nicholson, Cl'k.

And a resolution authorising the Attorney General to collect a certain sum of money;

Read the first time and referred to the committee on Ways and Means.

On motion of Mr. Johns,

Leave was granted to withdraw from the files of this House the petition and papers of Dr. Archibald Dorsey of Harford county.

Mr. Sutton of Kent submitted the following order:

Ordered, That no member shall be permitted to address this House longer than five minutes on any one question.

Which was read.

Mr. Owens of Anne Arundel moved to lay the said order on the table;

On the question being put,

On motion of Mr. Owens of Anne Arundel,

The yeas and nays were required and appeared as follows:

#### AFFIRMATIVE.

Messrs. Dorsey	Owens of Cecil	Gallagher
Owens of A. A.	Tuck	Graves
Hook	Hamilton	Presstman
Randall	Bryan	Grove
Willis	Newnam	Braddock
Sherwood	Simmons	Gott
Lowe	Staley	Gittings
Nicols of Dor.	Geyer	Mr. Speaker—26
Forwood	Culbreth	