

Which was read and referred to Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Hammill, Smith and McKaig.

Mr. Semmes presented the petition of sundry citizens of Prince George's county, requesting an amendment of the law in relation to the collection of officers fees ;

Which was read and referred to Messrs. Semmes, Ghiselin, Calvert and Wootten.

On motion of Mr. Ecker,

Ordered, That the committee on Retrenchment, be and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the propriety and expediency of reporting to this house a bill, by which the Constitution and Form of Government shall be so altered, as to graduate the representation in the House of Delegates on the following basis viz:

Every county having a population less than fifteen thousand inhabitants, to elect two delegates.

Every county having over fifteen thousand and less than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, to elect three delegates.

Every county having over twenty-five thousand and less than thirty-five thousand inhabitants, to elect four delegates, and so on (counting in all cases by federal numbers,) and the city of Baltimore to elect as many delegates as the largest county.

And also further to alter the Constitution and Form of Government, so as to admit Howard District to take the rank of a county, to be called Howard county.

On motion of Mr. Thomas of Anne Arundel,

Leave was granted Messrs. Thomas of Anne Arundel, Ligon, Murray, Warfield and Johnson, to bring in a bill entitled, an act for the relief of primary schools in Howard District.

Mr. Potter chairman of the committee on Education, made a favorable report upon a series of annual reports from the principals and trustees of the different schools in this State ;

Which was twice read and concurred in.

Mr. Phelps moved that the House suspend the rules and take up for consideration the bill reported by him from the committee on Retrenchment entitled, an act to alter and amend the Constitution and Form of Government of the State of Maryland, so as to substitute Biennial for annual sessions of the legislature ;

On the question being put, on suspending the rules ;

It was determined in the negative.

On motion of Mr Phelps,

The yeas and nays were ordered and appeared as follows :

AFFIRMATIVE—Messrs. Tilden, Freeman, Arringdale, Lankford, Philips, Stewart, Dail, Phelps, Lackland, Semmes, Harrison, Temples, Purnell, Cathell, Buckey, Lynch, Naill, Polk, Yellott, Potter, McKnett, Keene, Curley, Levering, Stansbury, jr. of Baltimore city, Trundle, Griffith, Ecker and Stull.—29.

NEGATIVE.—Messrs. Watson, (Speaker,) Hopewell, Ligon, Reeder, Walker, Carroll, jr., Stansbury, of Baltimore county, Welsh, Poultney, Waters of Somerset, Cropper, Owen, Harris,