

that the greatest evils under which mankind have suffered, have frequently had their origin in some benevolent design. The system of making public provision for the poor, which has become so serious a burden to the public, and so injurious to the moral character, and the independent feelings of the community, had its origin in the purest sympathies of the human heart, and so with many other of the charitable establishments existing in this country and in Europe.

Your committee will not be understood as saying that such evils would result from the establishment of "the Superannuated Fund Society," but they look beyond the present application, and foresee that should it become a law, a precedent will be at once afforded, under which the legislature would be obliged to extend the same privileges to every denomination of Christians, until at last the result might occur in which Religious associations, becoming possessed of enormous wealth, would exercise a power highly injurious to the well-being of society at large, and of the state.

The committee have said that the legislature would be obliged to grant such applications, because, unless such was the case, the zeal of the various sects which might feel themselves aggrieved, would at once be arrayed, and a Religious enthusiasm be brought to bear upon the elections, for the purpose of electing such persons as would be disposed to carry out their views and intentions, and then would the legislature be in danger of becoming a body contending for Religious privileges, while the public good would be entirely lost sight of.

The committee also believe that the establishment of such societies by law, would be in many cases injurious to society, inasmuch as they would afford a point, around which the zeal and affections of a dying father might be gathered, or towards which they might be improperly directed, and thus would he be induced to leave that property to the church, which ought to be appropriated to the support of his family.

For these considerations, the committee are of the opinion that the bill ought not to pass.

The said bill was then read the second and by special order the third time, rejected and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Brown submitted the following message; which was read and adopted, and with the resolution sent to the house of delegates:

By the Senate,

February 26, 1835.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We herewith return you the resolution directing the librarian to subscribe for certain copies of the compilation of the laws of this State, proposed to be published by the Honorable Clement Dorsey—and request your honorable body to amend said resolution by making the delivery of the work a condition precedent to the payment by the Treasurer for the same.

By order,

Jos. H. Nicholson, Clerk.