

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1808.

## Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, November 17, 1808.

### Legislature of Maryland.

#### HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

WEDNESDAY, November 9, 1808.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. The speaker laid before the house a letter from the trustee, enclosing an account current of funded stock to the 31st of October, 1808, and an account current of interest and principal received on said stock. Also a letter from the auditor, enclosing the western shore treasurer's account from November 1, 1807, to November 1, 1808, and an estimate of the state debt to the same period; which were read, and referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Seth, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Bland, were appointed a committee to report rules to be observed during the session.

Mr. Joseph Ennalls, a delegate for Dorchester county, appeared, qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. Willson, Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Frazier, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Cottman and Mr. Bland, were appointed, by ballot, a committee to examine and report on the returns of elections, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

The house proceeded to ballot for committee clerks, and on examining the ballots it appeared, that Nicholas Martin, Robert Welch, of Robert, Samuel Davidson and Samuel Loudermilk, were elected, and that David Love Jacob and Louis Gaffaway had an equal number of votes.

On a second ballot David L. Jacob was elected.

Ordered, That the committee of claims procure weekly one copy of the Maryland Gazette for each member of the legislature.

Mr. Edmondson, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Beall, Mr. Gale, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Hopewell and Mr. Hebb, were elected, by ballot, a committee of grievances and courts of justice.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, November 10, 1808.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

A petition from capt. G. Binckley's company of militia, in Hagar's-town, praying a repeal of that part of the militia law which obliges each person to furnish himself with a firelock; a petition from John Lynch, of Kent county, a revolutionary soldier, praying the pay of a corporal during life; and a petition from John Leatherbury, of Somerset county, praying that George and Dorothy Robertson may be authorized to convey to him certain lands, were severally preferred, read and referred.

Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Kerr and Mr. Cottman, were appointed a committee to report what laws expire with the present session.

Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act to reduce into one the several acts of assembly respecting elections, and to regulate said elections, and an additional supplement to the act to prevent excessive gaming.

Ordered, That all such parts of the executive communications as refer to the requisition of the war department, be referred to Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Spencer, Mr. P. Stewart, Mr. Gale and Mr. Tilghman; and that such parts of said communications as refer to the resolutions of the Vermont and Virginia legislatures, be referred to Mr. Chapman, Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. Edmondson, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Blakistone, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Tilghman.

Ordered, That the printer to the state be and he is hereby directed to print one hundred copies of every bill, resolution and report, containing subjects of a public nature, which shall be read by the clerk during the present session, also of all official papers, for the use of the members.

A petition from Joseph Tilghman, of Worcester county, praying assistance, was preferred, read and referred.

The order respecting the appointment of a committee to inquire into the expenses incurred under the resolution directing the governor and council to provide twenty-one desks for the house of delegates, passed at November session, 1806, was read the second time, the blank therein filled up with the names of Mr. J. H. Thomas, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Stansbury and Mr. Herbert, and the question put, That the house agree to the same? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Bier, from the committee of claims, delivers a report; which was read.

A petition from the grand jurors of Frederick county, praying that a new gaol may be erected in said county, was preferred, read and referred.

The following resolution was read.

Whereas by a vote of the last general assembly of Maryland, purporting to express "the public will

through the medium of the legislature," a resolution was adopted, declaring that "the late act of congress imposing an embargo, was, in the opinion of the said general assembly, a measure strongly characteristic of the judgment and wisdom of our national councils, and well calculated to inspire confidence in the individuals of the nation they represent:" And whereas "the public will" has been recently expressed by the public voice itself in the elections throughout the state for the popular branch of this legislature, so as to leave no doubt what are the real sentiments of the people of Maryland upon a subject deeply and solemnly interesting to the whole American union: And whereas to correct and counteract the impressions which may have resulted from the proceeding of the last session, touching a matter so immediately and extensively momentous, it has thus become an indispensable duty, which their constituents have a right to expect from the present general assembly, to set forth an authentic and serious assertion of their feelings, that the same may be distinctly understood and duly appreciated; therefore RESOLVED, That it is the conscientious belief and unbiassed conviction of this general assembly, representing the interests of the independent freemen of Maryland, that the aforesaid act, passed at the last session of congress; imposing an embargo, and the several acts supplementary thereto, being unbounded and unlimited in duration, and being of a nature to interfere with a permanent aspect, constitute a portentous system of unnecessary, impolitic, and unprecedented restraint upon the foreign trade, and domestic intercourse of these United States; that by this system the very existence of commercial enterprise is, for an indefinite period, proscribed and spirited away, the freedom of navigation in our own vessels along our own coasts, is vexed and disturbed, and the right of traffic between one state and another, and in some instances even between different parts of the same state, is hampered and controlled; that the privilege of a special license, allowed in one of the supplements to the embargo law, without alleviating its general pressure, must be peculiarly liable to abuse as the instrument of an odious monopoly, and is therefore highly repugnant to the character and genius of "our republican institutions;" that the whole system, examined in its multifarious provisions, is rigorous to an extent not even warranted by the reasons assigned for its recommendation; that the lapse of nearly a twelvemonth has proved, that it is inadequate and ineffectual towards attaining any of the avowed and ostensible objects for its continuance, and excites a fear, lest it should be considered abroad as a virtual abandonment of our rights and our honour, and a confession of feebleness and impotency, reproachful and derogatory to the American name; that a woful experience at home has evinced, in a manner too palpable to be concealed, its pernicious tendency in promoting jealousies and discontent, distrust, suspicion and alarm, and in inducing a new and improper disposition among a portion of our citizens, by the temptations which it has created to evade and violate the sovereignty of the laws; that, while it thus tends to pervert the spirit and impair the energies of the nation, it must inevitably operate so as to weaken the finances, if it should not embarrass the affairs, of government, by a prodigal sacrifice of revenue, derived almost exclusively from imports, which must lead to a direct waste of the public resources, or terminate in a heavy increase of the public burthens; that the effects of this grievance, if not equally oppressive to all, have yet been every where notorious and deplorable to the agricultural and general interests of the state, and may be daily seen in the docks and harbours of our seaports, where the American flag droops in captivity and decay over an immense mass of shipping, deserted by an invaluable body of seamen, whom this unrelenting policy has driven from their element to earn a precarious livelihood on shore, or else has exiled into foreign employ in quest of sustenance and support; that it has injured the faith of individual credit, frustrated the hopes of labour, disappointed business of its profits, depressed the pulse of industry, and continues to inflict loss and deprivation throughout the great body of community; and that there is sad reason to apprehend that this evil, already so productive of mischief, unless it is timely arrested and removed, may eventuate in consequences the most awful, calamitous and irretrievable. Wherefore

RESOLVED, That the senators and representatives from this state in the congress of the United States be and they are hereby earnestly requested, to exert themselves with all convenient diligence in endeavours to procure a speedy relief from the operation of the aforesaid act, passed at the last session of congress, imposing an embargo, and the several acts supplementary thereto.

The clerk of the senate delivers the following message: We have appointed Mr. Williams, Mr. Partridge, Mr. Lowrey, Mr. Covington and Mr. Purnell, on the part of the senate, to join such gentlemen as you may nominate, to form a committee of both houses,

to examine and compare all bills from time to time, during the present session, as soon as they shall be severally engrossed.

Which was read.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, November 11, 1808.

THE house met. Present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Seth, from the committee appointed to prepare rules, delivers a report; which was twice read and concurred with.

The following message was sent to the senate.

We have received your message of the 10th inst. and have appointed Mr. Baer, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Bayly, Mr. Randall, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Kerr and Mr. Perrie, a committee on the part of this house, to join the gentlemen named by you to compare and examine the engrossed bills.

A petition from John C. Hutton, of Somerset county, praying a divorce, was preferred, read and referred.

Mr. Wilson, from the committee of elections and privileges, delivers a report; which was read.

On motion the question was put, That the resolution respecting the embargo have a second reading on Tuesday the 6th day of December next? Resolved in the affirmative.

A petition from John Garner, of Charles county, praying to be supported out of the poor-house; a petition from sundry inhabitants of Frederick county, praying that a person may be appointed in each county to examine and report the state of the public records; a petition from the trustees of Allegany county school, praying an addition to the donation thereto; and a petition from Elizabeth Lamb, of Kent county, praying a divorce; were severally preferred, read and referred.

The clerk of the senate delivers the following resolution.

Whereas great doubts are entertained, and great diversity of opinion seems to prevail, in relation to the power exercised by congress touching the right of individual states to regulate and settle the manner of electing their representatives to congress; And whereas serious fears are entertained by some of the good people of this state, that the principles upon which congress decided in the premises, if conceded by the states, will greatly tend to abridge the rights of individual states, and to impair their sovereign powers; therefore Resolved, that a committee be appointed, in conjunction with such committee as may be appointed by the house of delegates, to inquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary in the laws regulating the election of members to congress, and that such committee be authorized to report by bill or otherwise.

Resolved, that Mr. Covington, Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Partridge, be the said committee on the part of the senate.

Which was read.

Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act to extend further the powers of the levy court of Allegany county relative to roads in said county, and for other purposes.

The following message was read.

We received your message of this morning on the subject of the election of members to congress, and concur with you in opinion as to the necessity of inquiring if any, and what alterations are necessary to be made in the same. We have therefore appointed Messrs. —, on the part of this house, to join the gentlemen nominated by your house to compose a joint committee for the above purpose.

Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act relating to the public roads in Talbot county, and a bill to regulate the fees of the register of the court of chancery.

The clerk of the senate delivers the following resolution.

Whereas there appears from the representation of the treasurer, that considerable sums of money are due to the state, under the several denominations of debts therein mentioned, and some of said debts appear to be long due, and in a hazardous situation; And whereas it is important to determine what is the real and existing situation of the funds of this state; therefore Resolved, That Mr. Partridge, Mr. Covington, Mr. Lowrey, Mr. Smithson and Mr. Williams, be a committee on the part of the senate, to join such members as may be appointed by the house of delegates, to inquire into the same, and that they be authorized to call on the treasurer for such explanations as they shall think proper, and report the actual state and situation of the public funds and revenue, and to consider and report such plans for the increase, improvement and investment thereof, as may be deemed by them most advantageous and beneficial for the interest of the state.

Which was read.

The following message was read and agreed to.

We concur with you in the policy of raising a committee to examine the outstanding debts due to