

This report on the petition of Robert C. Stone, and others, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house concur therewith, and assent to the resolution therein contained? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Scott delivers a bill, entitled, A further supplement to the act, entitled, An act relating to servants and slaves; which was read.

Mr. Costman delivers a bill, entitled, An act to enlarge the powers of the trustees of the poor of Somerset county; which was twice read, and passed.

Mr. Randall delivers a bill, entitled, An act authorizing the levy court of Baltimore county to appoint commissioners to lay out a road therein mentioned; which was read.

The report on the petition of John Williams was read the second time, and the resolution therein contained assented to.

Mr. Welch delivers a bill, entitled, An act to prevent the erection of hucksters booths near the places, and during the times, of Divine worship; which was read.

A petition from the president and directors of the Patowmack company, praying that femes-covert may be authorized to transfer shares in said company, and that they may be authorized to pass by-laws for the regulation of boats in said river, was preferred, read and referred.

Mr. M'Mahon delivers a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the valuation of real and personal property within this State; which was read.

The bill annulling the marriage of William Hines, and Mary his wife, was read the second time, and the question put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 31, nays 27.

Mr. Bland delivers a bill, entitled, An act to make a further provision for the erection of a new court-house for Baltimore county; which was read.

Mr. Porter delivers a favourable report on the petition of John McCay; which was read.

The house adjourns till to-morrow morning.

THURSDAY, December 15, 1808.

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

The bill to enlarge the powers of the trustees of the poor of Somerset county, the bill annulling the marriage of William Hines, and Mary his wife, the resolution in favour of Robert C. Stone, and others, and the resolution in favour of Thomas Williams, were sent to the senate.

A petition from Susanna Beamer, of the city of Baltimore, praying a divorce, was preferred, read and referred.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to establish and confirm certain acts done by persons holding offices of trust or profit under the government of the United States, and the bill authorizing the levy court of Prince-George's county to grant a commission to mark and bound the land therein mentioned, severally endorsed, "will not pass." Also a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for quieting possessions, and securing and confirming the estates of purchasers, endorsed, "will pass;" which was read. And a letter from the register of the land-office, enclosing an account of taxes received by him for the last year; which was read.

A petition from Jasper E. Tilly, late sheriff of Anne-Arundel county, praying further time to complete his collection, was preferred, read and referred.

Mr. Herbert delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of the children of Isaac Lansdale, deceased, of Prince-George's county; which was read.

The bill for the relief of Jacob Bantz, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

On motion, the question was put, That the house reconsider the bill annulling the marriage of Charles H. Tunis, and Harriet his wife, of Anne-Arundel county? Resolved in the affirmative.

Which bill being read throughout, the question was put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 40, nays 22, and sent to the senate.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying for a road, and a counter petition thereto; a petition from sundry inhabitants of the upper part of Harford and Baltimore counties, praying the confirmation of a road; a petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore and Harford counties, praying for a road; a petition from sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying a repeal of the law authorizing a certain road, and a petition from Benjamin Ray, late sheriff and collector of Montgomery county, praying a further time to complete his collection, were severally preferred, read and referred.

The bill for the relief of Jacob Gettig, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Dorsey delivers the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the executive be authorized and requested to purchase three hundred horsemen pistols, & three hundred cavalry swords, for the use of the State, and subject to the future order of the legislature.

Resolved, That the executive be authorized and requested to purchase, in case there should exist a necessity for the same, four thousand water proof cartridge boxes, and four thousand knapsacks, and that the sums necessary for the said resolutions be paid out of any unappropriated money in the treasury of the western shore, by a draught thereon by the executive for the same.

Which were read.

The further additional supplement to the act for erecting buildings, for the use of the poor in Queen-Anne's county, the further supplement to the act for the better regulation of apprentices, and the bill authorizing and empowering Stephen Collins and Whittington Polk to dispose of the lands therein mentioned, were read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The amendments to the further additional supplement to the act for marking and bounding lands, and the bill to authorize the levy court of Prince-George's county to assess and levy on the assessable property of said county a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned, were twice read, agreed to, and the bills ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Bland, from the committee appointed to bring in a bill to provide arms for the militia, delivers a report; which was twice read, and the question put, That the house concur therewith? Resolved in the affirmative, yeas 36, nays 31.

Mr. S. Thomas delivers a bill, entitled, An act to authorize commissioners to lay off a town in Montgomery county, by the name of Brookeville; which was read.

Mr. Boyle delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Francis Rawlings, of Anne-Arundel county; which was twice read, and passed.

Mr. R. Steuart delivers a bill, entitled, An act annulling the marriage of Frederick Beamer, and Susanna his wife, of the city of Baltimore; which was read.

The following message was read.

THE message which accompanied your dissent from our resolutions disapproving of the embargo, has been seriously and deliberately considered. If the feelings of this house were alone concerned, silence on our part would, perhaps, most strongly denote the predominant sentiment which such a message must naturally excite; but a just sensibility for the honour and the interests of the state constrains us, however reluctantly, to make a brief and explicit reply.

If the senate can really believe, that a majority of the people of Maryland are well pleased to endure the embargo, with all its train of supplements, at a time when, from being "where palpable the evils become almost proverbial," and if the senate had contented themselves with asserting this belief, however much it is to be admired as an instance of faith entirely independent of probability, it might have been safely permitted to pass into oblivion, and it would scarcely have required a single comment. It would have been sufficient to remember and to observe, that the criterion assumed by the senate, as evidencing popular opinion on this point, is notoriously defective and fallacious; that neither in the congressional elections, nor in the late electoral elections for president and vice-president, was there a fair trial or a full expression of the will of the sovereignty of Maryland upon this interesting subject; that if other circumstances had not at this period precluded a general effort on the part of those who are opposed to the embargo, yet according to the arrangement of the districts, from the manner in which several of the counties have been distributed and divided, manifestly with a view to other objects than those of public convenience, it might happen at any period that the wishes of a real majority could be effectually overruled and apparently suppressed; that as to the present matter in controversy, however, there can be no doubt that the judgment of the people has never been as completely pronounced, as it would have been, if the people had not been all along tantalized and deluded with the hope that the embargo was soon to be raised; that therefore the strength of the present opponents to that measure cannot be duly estimated by any election whatever which has yet occurred, and is not even to be limited by the degree of ascendancy which they hold in the house of delegates, because if the question had ever been, or could now be, honestly propounded to the common sense of the country, whether the embargo ought to be continued, and whether it has not hitherto proved an unpropitious experiment, it is confidently believed that the result would be a direct and complete condemnation of a system, of which it is now difficult to say whether it is most futile and perverse, or baleful, vexatious and alarming.

Under these impressions it could not have been very material to us what conjectures might be indulged in the calculations of the other branch of the legislature. Constituted as the senate is, elected between two and three years ago, having at this time a self-created portion of more than one third of the whole original number, and being withal separated from the immediate influence of the people, to whom but a remote responsibility is felt, it cannot be surprising, nor is it indeed any cause for reproach, that such a body, upon an occasion like this, should not be so competent to understand and to represent the genuine feelings of the community, as a majority of the house of delegates recently chosen, and chosen too, in most instances, upon the express ground of opposition to that particular course of policy, whose effects are already so much deplored, and whose future consequences are subjects to us of anxious and fearful meditation.

Nor would the mere eulogium upon the virtues of this policy, so highly magnified and recommended by the senate, have rendered the formality of any answer by this house either necessary or advisable. With the striking proof before us, which the message itself affords, how little either of argument or elucidation is to be expected on a great theme of national interest and feeling in a communication of this sort between the two branches of the legislature, even when it proceeds from the combined wisdom and talents of one branch, entirely undivided and centred in principle, and having all the sources of political intelligence ready at its command; from such an example as this on our table, it would rather seem that a lesson of becoming prudence should be learned, while we could perceive no inducement or further advantage to be gained by entering into the discussion which it may possibly have been intended to invite. If the senate cannot be convinced by their own observation, that the operation of the embargo has been generally injurious and distressing, we must conclude, that with equal benevolence, they possess a much higher fortitude than this house can pretend to; but at the same time it leaves us in some perplexity to account for the late passage of an act through both houses of the legislature, to suspend the ordinary process of justice, in a manner which nothing but the supposed grivous necessity of the times could authorize or require. Nor have we any right or disposition to object, that the senate should "view the embargo as a measure of a wise, efficient and dignified policy;" because it might be deemed an ungracious task to restrict the imagination in a case where so little of the reality exists; and we should sincerely rejoice if the belligerents of Europe, instead of treating it with derision or indifference, could be made to appreciate our "self-retirement," as it is termed, according to the fond and fanciful reckoning of its authors, advisers and advocates. As we

have no desire to disturb or interfere with the opinion of the senate, as it is thus expressed in the message, neither do we expect to charge or relinquish any of the sentiments contained in the resolutions. On the contrary, they are resistibly confirmed by reflection, and fortified by information of the state of public affairs, of which every citizen is permitted to obtain any knowledge; and we shall cheerfully submit the whole merits of the embargo plan, in all its various bearings, to be freely and finally decided by the constituents, with an upright and rational confidence in their discernment, integrity and patriotism.

But the principal motive which has occasioned this reply was to object to the extraordinary manner of your message to remonstrate against the new and exceptionable style, by which, we regret to observe, that it is so peculiarly distinguished. We regret to find, that a language should be adopted and sanctioned by such high authority, of a nature so well calculated to inflame the violence of political passion, and to promote disgust, dissatisfaction and strife, instead of those benevolent and honourable affections which as guardians of the commonwealth, at this juncture particularly, it should be the duty and the happiness of us all to inculcate. Within our recollection, this is the first document of legislative proceeding, the first act of official character in Maryland, in which its citizens are openly denigrated and arrayed against each other under the appellation of contending parties, and in which a very numerous, and certainly a respectable portion of them, are virtually stigmatized as objects of the most unjust and ungenerous suspicion. According to the terms of the message, and the obvious inferences which are to be drawn, the very members of the house, constituting a major part of it, who in the exercise of a constitutional right have voted to declare those feelings, which they believe to pervade the great mass of the substantial and independent interests of the state, may therefore be proscribed, not merely as "habitual opponents of the administration," but as being among "the friends of the great belligerents of Europe, and artful and designing men, who seek their own aggrandizement through the distresses and commotions of their native country." An imputation so aggravated and unfounded, as far as it is entitled to receive a moment's attention, if it was not from an apprehension of the gross errors and a mistake which it must tend to infuse into the public mind, and were it not to remain an unseemly precedent upon the journals of the legislature. When once an acrimonious spirit of contumacious shall be suffered to prevail in the accustomed mode of intercourse which subsists between the two branches, it is to be feared that the result of the discussion should characterize every such production; a message soon degenerate into a mere vehicle of pert malignity and intemperate passion, emboldened and invigorated by the consciousness of legislative impunity. Deprecating imper per examples in this form, and scrupulous ourselves avoid every appearance of indignity, we should be unfaithful of the obligations of self respect, and unfaithful to sacred trust reposed in us, if we did not address these remarks with candour and freedom to the serious and dispassionate contemplation of your honourable body.

Leave given to bring in a bill to empower the executive to purchase annually arms of the manufacture of this State for the use of the militia, and for other purposes.

Mr. Dorsey delivers a bill, entitled, An act to alter and abolish all such parts of the constitution as are therein mentioned; which was read.

The amendments proposed to the bill to authorize and empower the levy court of Queen-Anne's county to assess and levy a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned, were agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to make further provision for the erection of a new court-house for Baltimore county, was read the second time, and passed.

Mr. T. N. Williams delivers a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act, entitled, An act for regulating the mode of staying executions, and repealing the acts of assembly therein mentioned; which was read.

Mr. O. Williams delivers a bill, entitled, An act authorizing Jasper E. Tilly, late sheriff of Anne-Arundel county, to complete his collection; which was read.

Leave given to bring in a bill to incorporate a company to straighten and turnpike the postroad from Delaware line, in Cecil county, to the city of Baltimore.

The house proceeded to the second reading of a bill to regulate the fees of the register of the court of chancery, and after making an amendment thereto,

The house adjourned till to-morrow morning.

FRIDAY, December 16, 1808.

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

The bill authorizing Jasper E. Tilly, of Anne-Arundel county to complete his collection, the bill to make a further provision for the erection of a court-house for Baltimore county, and the bill for the relief of Francis Rawlings, were sent to the senate.

Mr. Belt delivers a favourable report on the petition of Gassaway Watkins; which was read.

The clerk of the senate delivers the supplement to the act to incorporate companies to make ferry turnpike roads through Baltimore county, the bill to authorize the judges of St. Mary's county court to direct a division or sale of the real estate of Robert Young, the bill to revive and continue an act authorizing Joseph Green, of Charles county, to complete his collection, and the additional supplement to the act to incorporate a company for erecting a bridge over Chester river, severally endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. The bill to lay out and open a road in Prince-George's county, and proposed amendments; which amendments were read. Also a bill, entitled, An act to repeal an act, entitled, An act for the punishment of forgery, and for other purposes, endorsed, "will pass;" which was read. And the bill to increase the salary of the chief justice of the court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery of Baltimore county, endorsed, "will not pass." With the following message: