

SENATE CHAMBER,

ALBANY, March 4th, 1833.

“You are, I apprehend, entirely right in recommending a special session of your legislature, for the purpose of revising your statute law. The other course was adopted here in the first instance, and persevered in, until it was clearly found to be impracticable. The mingling of this matter, with the ordinary business of legislation, was attended with many inconveniences. The sessions were much prolonged, and it became manifest that some part of the business, could not be properly attended to. Thus when a particular chapter was referred to a committee, the attentions of the members of that committee, was unavoidably withdrawn by ordinary legislation, from that close attention which the subject demanded. And precisely so with both branches of the legislature, with this addition however, that whenever a subject was fairly entered upon, it became necessary, either to proceed to its completion, without interruption, or to commence again at another day, and go over again the ground, which had already been partially occupied. This produced errors in the statutes—increased the sessions in point of time—sacrificed other business, and did not much advance the revision. I am aware that I do not state to you, all the difficulties which attended our attempt at revision, at our ordinary sessions. I state to you, however, the result of our experience. I am not now able to state to you the expense—I have directed a statement to be made out, and in a few days, I shall be able to transmit it to you, when I will write more fully upon both branches of your enquiry.”

The above reasons for an extra session, apply with peculiar force to the Maryland Legislature, from the circumstance, that at its ordinary sittings, it is much occupied, in passing what is denominated, private acts. This kind of business at the ordinary period, is pressed upon the legislature by the constituents of the respective members, with an earnestness which it would be difficult and improper not to gratify. In most of our sister states, acts of assembly of this nature are less frequent, from the circumstance, that the executive, courts of justice, or tribunals for the administration of the police or internal regulations of cities or counties, are vested with many powers, which the legislature of Maryland has seen fit to withhold.

In conclusion, therefore, your committee will observe that at a future period, an extra session of the legislature, for the