

FRIDAY, December 5, 1817.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Bean S. Pigman, esquire, a delegate from Frederick county, Samuel Claggett, esquire, a delegate from Prince George's county, Henry Watts, esquire, a delegate from Saint Mary's county, and James Tidball, esquire, a delegate from Allegany county, appeared, qualified, and took their seats.

Mr. Roderick Dorsey delivers a petition from James Hood, a revolutionary soldier, praying compensation for his services; which was read and referred to Messrs. R. Dorsey, Estep and C. Stewart.

The speaker laid before the house reports from the clerks of Prince George's, Somerset and Queen Anne's county courts, relative to the attendance of the judges of their respective courts; which were read and referred to the committee of grievances and courts of justice.

Mr. Griffith from the committee delivers the following report:

The committee appointed to report the rules proper to be observed during this session, beg leave to submit the following:

- 1st. At the hour appointed for sitting, the roll of the house shall be called over, and the absent members, if any, sent for.
- 2d. Every member shall take his seat when the Speaker takes his chair, and remain uncovered until the speaker rises and goes forth.
- 3d. Every member who shall deliver his opinion, or speak in any debate, shall rise and respectfully address himself to the speaker.
- 4th. No member at the time of speaking in debate, shall name any other by his proper name, but shall use some other distinction.
- 5th. If two or more members shall rise to speak at the same time, the speaker shall determine which shall speak first.
- 6th. No member shall speak a second time until every member who offers to deliver his sentiments has spoken once, and no member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the house.
- 7th. Any member called to order by the speaker, or any member, shall thereupon take his seat.
- 8th. When the house is sitting no member shall hold conversation to interrupt debate.
- 9th. No motion shall be debated until the same be seconded, and (if desired by the speaker or any member) reduced to writing, delivered in at the table, and read by the clerk.
- 10th. When a motion is made and seconded, the matter of the motion shall receive a determination by the question, or be postponed by a motion for commitment or postponement, or by the previous question, before any other motion shall be received.
- 11th. Every question shall be entered on the Journal, and the yeas and nays shall be taken, when required by three members who shall have divided on the question.
- 12th. The previous question, that is, whether the question propounded be now put, may be called for by any member on any question, except to an amendment, or other matter which cannot in its nature be postponed.
- 13th. If a question in debate contains more distinct parts than one, any member may, of right, have the same divided into as many questions as parts, and when an amendment shall be proposed to an amendment, the question on the last amendment shall be first taken, and then divided, if required, into as many parts as it will admit of questions.
- 14th. All questions shall be determined by a majority of the members present; those dividing in the affirmative rising in their places, those in the negative continuing in their seats, and so *vice versa* until a decision by the speaker.
- 15th. Whenever the speaker shall decide any question, the same shall be final unless the yeas and nays be required.
- 16th. Every bill or resolution originated in this house, or received from the senate, shall be read on two several days, with an intermission of one day at least, during which time it shall lie on the table for the perusal of the members, unless on very urgent occasions, the house shall, by special order, dispense with this rule, which order shall be entered on the journal.
- 17th. Conferrees, and members appointed on draughts, if required by three members, shall be elected by ballot, and the number in no case shall exceed seven.
- 18th. No bill or resolve shall have a second reading until every member in the city be called upon to attend, except he be excused by the house for indisposition, or necessary attendance on the public business.
- 19th. No petition, memorial, or other application to the house, shall be received, unless presented by a member.
- 20th. All questions of order shall be determined by the speaker; but there may be an appeal by any member to the house, from the decision, and the determination of the house in such cases of appeal shall be final.
- 21st. No motion shall be made after the hour of adjournment without leave of the house.
- 22d. All misdemeanors which shall happen in the house, shall be censured or fined by the house.
- 23d. No member shall answer on the yeas and nays who did not divide on the question; and if any member divides on one side and answers on the other on the yeas and yeas, the same shall be noted on the journal at the request of any member.
- 24th. All fines imposed by the house shall be paid to the clerk, and applied as the members shall direct.
- 25th. The substance of all petitions, memorials, or other applications, shall be entered on the journal.
- 26th. The clerk of the house shall, during the first week of the session, put into the hands of the speaker a correct list of all papers referred from the preceding session.
- 27th. On motion or debate, any member may call for the reading of any law, journal, record, or other public proceeding, which may relate to the subject matter.
- 28th. No member shall take out of the house any bill, or other paper, belonging to the house, without the leave of the speaker, under the penalty of such fine as may be imposed by the speaker, not exceeding forty shillings; and no original paper shall be delivered to any person during the recess of the legislature, without a written order from the speaker.
- 29th. No member shall nominate more than one person on any committee, and in making such nomination shall rise and address himself to the speaker.