

the oath of office, directed by the act of assembly, and by taking the oath to support the constitution of the United States. The speaker attended by the members of this house, returned and resumed the chair.

The house adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1822.

The House met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The further supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the distribution of a certain fund for the purpose of establishing free schools in the several counties therein named, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Franklin reports a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Whittington Steele, and Hetty Parker, the idiot daughter of Azariah Parker, of Worcester county; which was read.

Mr. Orrick presents a petition from Hezekiah Price and wife, and Garrett G. Worthington and wife, praying that certain deeds and conveyances may be made null and void; read and referred to Messrs. Orrick, Worthington and John P. Kennedy.

On motion by Mr. John P. Kennedy, Ordered, That the further supplement to the act for amending and reducing into system the laws and regulations concerning last wills and testaments, have a second reading on the 7th January next.

The bill to repeal part of the act therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Dalrymple delivers the following report:

The committee to whom were referred the several petitions relative to the importation of slaves from other states into this state, beg leave to report—That they have had the same under their consideration, and are of opinion, after having duly considered the laws relative thereto, that they contain every provision which your committee conceive necessary to give the utmost latitude to the importation of that species of population; therefore recommend that said petitioners have leave to withdraw their petitions.

Which was read.

By order,

S. S. HODGKIN, Clk.

On motion by Mr. Archibald Lee, Ordered, That the bill authorising a lottery for the benefit of the Rockville and Barnestown Roman Catholic Congregations in Montgomery county, have a second reading on the 6th January.

On motion by Mr. Thomas Kennedy, Ordered, That the bill to authorise the Congregation of the German Reformed Church in Middle-town, in Frederic county, to raise a sum of money by lottery to defray the expense, in part, for building their church in said town; have a second reading on the same day.

On motion by Mr. John P. Kennedy, Ordered, that the bill to alter and amend the constitution which relates to the election of two delegates from the city of Baltimore have a second reading on the 14th January next.

On motion by Mr. Thomas Kennedy, the message relative to an adjournment, proposed by Mr. John P. Kennedy, was reconsidered.

On motion by Mr. Thomas Kennedy the following was offered as a substitute therefor:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, December 17, 1822.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

We propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to adjourn both houses on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of January next, as we consider it probable that if we do not adjourn at Christmas for more than one day, we shall be able to finish the business of the session by that time; and we consider it highly necessary to endeavour to put an end to the custom which has prevailed for a few years past, of adjourning several days at Christmas, unusual in other state legislatures, and which tends to lengthen the session, and increases the public expences.

Which being read, Mr. John P. Kennedy called for a division of the question, so that it might be put on his original message. The chair declared it to be out of order, and the question should be first put on the substitute. An appeal was called for by Mr. John P. Kennedy from the decision of the chair, and the question put, Will the house sustain the the chair in his opinion? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. John P. Kennedy offered the following as a substitute to the substitute offered by Mr. Thomas Kennedy.

*Gentlemen of the Senate*—The custom of adjournment having rendered it impracticable to keep a house during the Christmas holydays, and that being a season devoted to the observance of religious duties, and the interchange of social feelings, we therefore propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to adjourn on the 21st day of December, until the 30th December 1822.

The chair declared the said proposition out of order, as he deemed it to be in substance the same, as that proposed by the same gentleman, and now under consideration. An appeal was called for by Mr. John P. Kennedy, and the question put? Will the house sustain the chair in his opinion? Determined in the negative. The question was then put, That the house assent to the last substitute proposed by Mr. John P. Kennedy? The yeas and nays being required appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.—Messrs. Millard, G. Leigh, Maddox, Dalrymple, Weems, Skinner, Stone-street, Edelen, Rogerson, Garner, Stansbury, Orrick, Johnson, Teakle, Byus, Hooper, Craig, Wright, Pratt, Henry Kemp, Thomas, Farquhar, Fisher, Chauncey, Whiteford, Boon, Cas-son, Saulsbury, J. P. Kennedy, Purviance, Drury, Keller, Kilgour, E. Williams, A. Lee, Pol-lard—36.