

school house, and purchasing a burial ground; and *Mr. Pratt*, reports a bill, entitled, An act, to repeal an act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor of Queen Anne's county, and to provide for the support of the same; which were read.

*Mr. Skinner* presents a petition from Priscilla Grover, praying for support; read and referred to Messrs. Skinner, Weems and Smith.

*Mr. J. P. Kennedy*, presents a petition from Thomas Mackey, a revolutionary soldier; read and referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

On motion by *Mr. Millard*, the following message was read assented to and sent to the senate.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, January 2, 1823.

*Gentlemen of the Senate*—It being the duty of the legislature of this state, to provide suitable accommodations for the governor, and to furnish the government house: we have appointed Messrs. Millard and Estep, a committee to join such gentlemen as may be named by your honorable body, to examine and report the condition of the furniture in the government house, and what sum of money, (if any) be necessary to furnish the same.

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Clk.

On motion by *Mr. Willard*, the following preamble and resolutions were read:

As the representatives of the people of Maryland, we should hold ourselves guilty of censurable indifference to their direct interests, and to our duty as the constitutional organs of their will, as respects their zeal and good dispositions towards the whole federal family, were we to presume silence at this interesting period, when the subject of internal improvement engages the attention of congress, and of some of the neighboring states. As important branches of this system, we perceive with peculiar pleasure, that the project of opening the navigation of the Potomac, so as to connect it by a short portage with the great streams of the west, has been urged on the representative wisdom of the nation, by the memorials of a respectable portion of our country, whilst that of uniting the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake by a canal, will probably be enforced upon the attention of the same body by the respectable recommendation of the legislature of our adjoining state. In this great chain of internal communication, so necessary to our federal prosperity, and which was an object of such high interest and ardent hope with the great founders of our republic, Maryland forms too distinguished a link to be overlooked. The superior natural advantages which she possesses, eminently fit her to be the centre of union between north and south, east and west, by the agency of internal improvements. A canal of no great extent would connect the waters of the Delaware and Chesapeake, and thus afford a direct, cheap and safe transportation from north to south. The opening of the navigation of the Potomac would bring the western and Atlantic states in close neighbourhood. That these improvements, should be made by the national and not by the state governments, we can entertain no doubt when we look at the scale of comparative benefits. To recur then to our first position, that it is the duty of the general government to effect these works, we have only to enquire what are the advantages which they would produce to the states, individually, compared with the benefits to them in their collective or federal character. To the states in their separate or independent character, these improvements would produce one great result, an augmentation of capital, by enhancing the productiveness of labour. And this is the chief, if not the only important benefit that it would secure to them as distinct sovereignties; but this gain would likewise prove the gain of the general government, and that too, in an increased ratio. For as the capitals of the states would be improved by the improvement of the fortunes of their citizens—the capital of the general government, or in other words, its resources, would be augmented in proportion to the augmentation of state capitals. There are, however, other and great considerations, which enforce upon Congress the duty of accomplishing these works. To promote the public welfare, it is the part of a wise government to adopt every means of drawing close the bonds of our Union. We think this cannot better be done, than by creating objects in which all have a great interest; and by strengthening our mutual dependence upon each other, by affording facilities for exchange of products, and the reciprocation of other benefits. We should thus lead the whole force of private interest, and convenience, to the abstract political truth, that in union is prosperity. An extended inland commercial intercourse would further, (by removing the prejudices of local education) cloath our political connexion with all the attractions of the domestic affections, and convert the cold union of political convenience into the warm hearted alliance of social sympathy and friendly sentiment.

It would be found a necessary and valuable auxiliary towards providing for the public defence—a duty allotted to the general government. It would enable the government during a state of war, to make a more prompt application of its means for internal defence, by creating facilities for the transportation, (with comparatively little cost) of cannon and other munitions of war, from one point to another, as the public exigencies might demand. Emergencies might indeed occur during war, where the necessary aid could not otherwise be furnished. These are advantages especially resulting to the federal government, and grow naturally out of the execution of the trusts reposed in it by the federal constitution. Hence we are led to conclude, that as the great and prominent advantages of such a system, are of a general, and not local operation only, the provision for its execution should be made, not by the local authorities, but by that government whose province it is to superintend the general relations and concerns of the union. Without the aid of the general government, the great federal objects, promising such beneficial results to the country, will be unaccomplished either from want of means on the part of such state governments as might attempt it, or from discrepancy of views where the concurrence of two or more states is necessary. Where we view the direct bearings of such a system of internal improvements as shall open a safe and cheap inland communication with all the great sections of our extensive country, upon so many and great objects of political eco-