

expected from the general government, until long after the disbursements were made; and as to a portion of which, from the irregularity inseparably incident to a hasty and vigorous resistance of an invading enemy, no account could be taken, or voucher supplied, to justify a claim against the United State, thereby causing an irremediable loss to the revenues of the state.

And whereas, a regard for the interests of the people, manifestly dictated the policy of early repairing the injury sustained by the measures adopted during the war, and required, that upon the return of peace the general assembly should have devoted its attention to the means of paying of the war debt, and of furnishing a new supply to the exhausted sources of revenue—a suggestion most unhappily lost sight of in the political dissensions which have since that period distracted the state, and forbidden the adoption of a salutary system of administration; and the same improvident spirit having restrained the application of a wholesome policy in the appropriation of the several large portions of the debt due from the government of the United States, that were from time to time paid into the treasury of the state, which sums of money, according to every principle of wise administration, should have been applied to the replacement of such parts of the state's capital as has been invaded by the free expenditure of the war, but which, on the contrary, were lavished, with a prodigality in every respect unwise, in defraying the ordinary expenses of government.

And whereas, in consequence of the policy pursued, a permanent deficiency of at least thirty thousand dollars has been created in the annual demand and supply of the treasury, a ruinous system of loan encouraged, which by shifting the public burthens from the present generation, only fasten them, with a more iniquitous pressure, upon their successors; and taxation so long, but so unwisely parried, having now become a matter of indispensable and constantly recurring necessity, not only for the support of government, but for the payment of debts improvidently contracted.

And whereas, it is the duty of those to whom the interests of the state are confided, to apply a vigorous remedy to the evils growing out of the causes before alluded to, and to meet the crisis to which the state has been brought, with a steady resolution to sacrifice a temporary convenience to the permanent considerations of the public weal—the more especially at this time, when the state enjoys a breathing space from the struggles of party contests, and is left in the possession of the amplest inducements to good government.

And whereas, it seems to be the most obvious consideration of duty, to provide some certain method for the gradual extinguishment of the debt incurred during the late war, and the replacement of the state's capital then encroached upon; and that the same should be accomplished in a manner the least oppressive to the people; that the time may come, after a lapse of years, when under the influence of a wise legislative effort, the people may again find themselves in possession of the means of government, without a resort to taxation, and when the extra resources of the state may be applied to the promotion of the great objects of internal improvement, and national prosperity; therefore,

*Ordered*, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to consider and devise some efficient plan for the gradual extinguishment of the debt incurred during the late war with Great Britain, and the replacement of the capital expended by reason thereof, take care to render the same as little oppressive to the people, and as certain in its operation as the nature of the subject will allow, and to report upon the same to this house.

On motion by Mr. Purviance, *Ordered*, That the supplement to the act relative to insolvent debtors, have a second reading on to-morrow.

Mr. Skinner reports a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Priscilla Gover, and her two idiot sons, of Calvert county; which was twice read, passed, and sent to the senate.

On motion by Mr. Millard, the following order was read:

*Ordered*, That the auditor furnish this house with such information as he may be able to obtain, relative to the original cost of the state house and all the public buildings at Annapolis, also the cost for repairs since their erection.

The clerk of the senate delivers the following message:

BY THE SENATE, January 2, 1823.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates*—We agree to your proposal that a joint committee shall be appointed to ascertain whether any, and what amount of money may be necessary to repair or refurnish the accommodations at the government house, and have appointed Messrs. Chambers and Dickinson to unite with the gentlemen named by you.

Which was read.

By order,

WM. KILTY, Clk.

Also a communication from the executive, accompanied by a report made by the commissioners appointed to view and examine the Potomac river, and its branches; which was read.

Also a bill to authorise Henry Vernon Somerville to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland, and the bill for the relief of Richard Bennet Mitchell, of the city of Baltimore, severally endorsed, "will pass." *Ordered* to be engrossed.

Also the bill authorising the levy courts of Anne-Arundel and Prince-George's counties to levy a sum of money for building a bridge over Patuxent river, at Queen-Anne; the bill to make valid the proceedings of the levy court of Allegany county; and the bill to authorise William Knight, of Kent county, to import and bring into this state certain negroes therein mentioned, severally endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments?" which amendments were read, and the bill ordered to be endorsed.

On motion of Mr. A. Lee, the following message was read and assented to:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, January 3, 1822.

*Gentlemen of the Senate*—We propose, with the concurrence of your honorable body, that a joint committee be appointed, consisting of five members, to communicate with the legislature of Pennsylvania, and to represent the growing evils that the citizens of this state labour under in