

Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Cosden, the question was put, That the words "on Cecil county the sum of two thousand three hundred and eighty dollars" be stricken out?

Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Norris, the question was put; That the words "two thousand" be stricken out of the part relative to Harford county, for the purpose of inserting the words "one thousand"?

Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Gerry, the question was put, That the word "three" be stricken out of the clause limiting the continuance of the law to 3 years, for the purpose of inserting the word "one"?

Resolved, in the affirmative.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the following was added to the bill.

And be it enacted, That nothing herein contained shall restrain, or in any wise prevent the complete collection of the sums directed to be levied by the acts passed at December session 1821, chapters 192 and 239, so far as relates to the tax levied for the year 1822.

On motion by Mr. Norris, the question was put, That the further consideration of the bill be postponed?

Determined in the negative.

The question was then put, Shall the said bill pass?

The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.—Messrs. Speaker, Millard, G. Leigh, Stone, Maddox, Massey, Estep, Linthicum, Howard, Dalrymple, Smith, Skimer, Stonestreet, Edelen, Rogerson, Loockerman, Martin, Dennis, Steele, Byus, Hcooper, Sheredine, Parker, Semmes, Hughes, Carroll, Roberts, Meconiken, Wright, Slemaker, Riley, Franklin, Thomas, Farquhar, Fisher, Chauncey, Boon, Casson, T. Kennedy, Drury, Keller, Galloway, A. Lee, Tomlinson—44:

NEGATIVE.—Messrs. Ireland, Hodges, Weems, Garner, Stansbury, Orrick, Johnson, Worthington, Jones, Teackle, Willis, Gerry, Cosden, H. Kemp, Norris, Allen, Whiteford, Saulsbury, Douglass, John P. Kenedy, Purviance, Williams, Duvall, Greenwell, Hoffman, Pollard—26.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1823.

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

The bill providing a revenue for the support of government, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Millard delivers the following report:

The committee who were appointed by this house, in conjunction with the gentlemen named by the senate, to "examine and report" the situation of the government house, beg leave to report, that they have performed the duty assigned them, and believe that the furniture is not sufficient to promote the comfort and convenience of his excellency and family; they therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to Samuel Stevens, Jr. governor of Maryland, the sum of _____ dollars to enable him to furnish the government house with appropriate and suitable furniture. Which was read.

The speaker laid before the house a communication from the clerk of the council, in compliance with the order of this house, relative to the messenger; which was read.

Mr. Thomas delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the order of the house of delegates to inquire why reports of the decisions of the court of appeals of this state have not been made and published, and to devise means, if necessary, for their publication, beg leave to report, that from information derived from the reporters of those decisions, the delay in their publication has arisen from the expense incurred by the reporters, in the publication of the last volume, the sales of which do not remunerate them by upwards of one thousand dollars. See exhibit mark A.

It appears to your committee highly important that the decisions of the court of appeals should be known throughout the state; and in order to effect that desirable object, the further aid of the legislature is necessary to enable the reporters to publish the decisions which have been, and which may be hereafter made by the court of appeals.

Your committee beg leave to state, that in order to encourage the publication of the decisions of the supreme court of the United States, congress, by an act of the third of March, 1817, allows the reporter of the decisions of that court an annual salary of one thousand dollars, on the delivery of eighty copies of each volume of reports to be distributed to certain civil and judicial officers of the government. Besides the security which is thus afforded to the reporter, he has another, and perhaps greater source of indemnity and profit to resort to, in the extensive sale, which from the nature of the subjects decided in the supreme court, these reports will always command. He finds a ready and certain demand for his volumes in every state of the union. Whereas, from the nature of the subjects discussed in the court of appeals of this state, the demands for the reports of its decisions must be nearly, if not exclusively, confined to the state.

To an enlightened legislature it cannot be necessary to urge the importance of preserving, in the most authentic form, the reports of the decisions of the supreme court of the state, as it is to them we must look for the principles which regulate and establish the liberty and property of its citizens; and in proportion to their importance is the necessity that they should be published and distributed, as early as practicable after they are pronounced. It insures to them an authority and respect which cannot be questioned or denied, and they are justly referred to as the evidence of the law of the land. If on the other hand, they remain unpublished for years, it at-

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