

The bill relative to the inspection of salted fish was read the second time. Mr. Norris moved to withdraw the bill from the hands of the chair, when Mr. Riley called for the previous question, and it was put, that is, that the main question be now put? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Teackle moved to recommit the said bill? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Norris reports the said bill as amended; which was read.

Mr. Carroll presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of the city of Annapolis, praying for a change in the time of electing their corporation officers; read and referred to the committee who reported a bill on that subject. Ordered, that the said bill be recommitted.

Mr. J. P. Kennedy reports a bill entitled, An act relating to the heirs of Doctor John Trotter, of Baltimore county, as amended; which was read.

On motion by Mr. Pratt, leave given to bring in a bill entitled, An act relating to poundage fees: Ordered, that Messrs. Pratt, Linthicum and Whiteford, report the same. Mr. Pratt reports the said bill; which was read.

Mr. Stansbury from the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims delivers unfavorable reports on the petition of Family Robinson, Samuel Davis, William Gudgington, James Curry, James Gwin, Elisha Burrows, Ezekiel Thompson, Jacob Barry, Thomas Cheneworth, and Anthony Davis. Also favorable reports on the following petitions: James McCollister, Thomas Pennyfield, Colter Jones, Mary Richards and Charles Robertson; which were read.

The resolution in favor of St. Peter's free school, was read the second time, and assented to.

The clerk of the senate delivers the supplement to an act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, endorsed, "will not pass." The supplement to the act incorporating the Baltimore second dispensary, endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. The bill authorising the orphans court of Charles county to decree the sale of certain property, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments;" which amendments were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. The resolution in favor of the Library company of Baltimore, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendment" which amendment was read and assented to. And a communication from his excellency the governor, enclosing a letter from the honorable Samuel Smith, with a copy of the resolution proposed by him in the senate of the United States, relative to the amendment of the constitution, so that congress shall have power to adopt and execute a system of internal improvements, confined to great national purposes. And the following message:

BY THE SENATE, February 19, 1823.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates*—The senate would have no objection to alter their amendment to the bill entitled, A further supplement to an act for the more effectual collection of the county charges in Allegany county, in the way requested by your message of today, but think such alteration can only be made by your house.

The only question the senate think they have now a right to decide is, whether they will adhere to their amendment or recede from it.

They conceive they have no authority to modify it. There can, however, we respectfully suggest, be no doubt that any modification of this amendment may be made by your house, and if the one mentioned in your message be made, the senate would willingly adopt it.

Which was read.

By order,

WM. KILTY, Clk.

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

THURSDAY, February 20, 1823.

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

The resolution in favour of St Peter's Free School, was sent to the senate.

On motion by Mr. Stansbury, Ordered, that the following letter be inserted on the journal:

BALTIMORE, January 28, 1823.

*General T. E. Stansbury,*

SIR—The Board of Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, in reply to your communication relative to the non-execution of the sentences of criminals at the penitentiary, so far as they prescribe solitary imprisonment; would, for the information of the committee of the legislature acting on that subject, respectfully represent—That the subject of confinement as part of the sentence of the law, had been early investigated by the present board for their own satisfaction and justification; when it appeared, that the non-execution of that part of the sentences of the court was founded on uninterrupted usage since the establishment of the house, and considered only as authority to inflict solitary confinement to the extent prescribed in the sentences, as offences given in the institution might require; and to dispense with it so far as no such occurrences in the conduct of the prisoner would admit, or his good conduct merit an exemption from it altogether—in fine, as an affair belonging to the police of the house. On this construction, the present board might not have rested themselves in the first instance, but as uniform usage, they have felt unwilling to disturb it for the following reasons:

1st. The most powerful influence of the house over the conduct of the prisoners consists in the punishment by solitary confinement; which of course would be weakened, if not obviated entirely by the sentences which would often comprehend as much of such confinement as the prisoners' health could well bear, and which, if added to by similar police punishments also, would cripple his utility and acquirement of mechanical knowledge, to an extent undermining those leading objects of the institution.

2d. The execution of the sentences as to solitary confinement, independent of any qualification, is impracticable in the present extent and structure of the house—though the use of the cells, for similar domestic punishment, was dispensed with, an application of them seemingly indis-