

The order was then assented to, and the speaker appointed Messrs. Lockerman, Gerry, Hopper, W. Stewart and Fenwick to be the said committee.

The bill for the better payment of the jurors and justices of the Levy Court in Cecil county; the further supplement to the act entitled, an act for the distribution of a certain fund for the purpose of establishing free schools in the several counties therein mentioned; and the bill to authorise Walker R. Armistead, of Prince George's county, to remove negro Cyrus into this state, were read the second time by special order, passed and sent to the senate.

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

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, December 9, 1823

*Gentlemen of the Senate*—Thomas Emory, Joshua Prideaux, Philemon Chew, Nicholas Brewer and Robert H. Archer, Esq's. being elected Council to the Governor of this state, we propose that a joint letter be written by the President of the senate and the Speaker of the house of delegates, and forwarded by mail to each of the gentlemen elect, notifying them of their election and requesting their immediate attendance at the seat of government

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Clk.

Which was read.

On motion by Mr. Semmes the following resolutions were read: Whereas there is good reason to believe that during the present session of Congress, an attempt will be made to forestal public opinion by a Congressional Caucus nomination of a candidate for the Chief Magistracy of our country: And whereas the rights to examine and decide upon the claims, merits and qualifications of all who aspire to that high office, is an essential branch of the sovereignty of the people: And whereas in the existing state of the internal affairs and domestic relations of the republic, we view such a proceeding connected with the principles and arguments by which it is attempted to be supported, as being an assumption of power, unconstitutional in its spirit, & in its tendency justly alarming to every American who believes that the real and practical sovereignty of the people is essential to the purity and durability of our republican system of government.

We therefore, the members of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, in the name of the good people of the state, speaking, as we believe, the sentiments of our constituents, have therefore,

*Resolved*, That we view a Caucus nomination by the members of Congress at the present time, as unwise, useless and improper, calculated to evade the provisions of the constitution, and to sacrifice the interest of the smaller states.

*Resolved*, That we hold sacred all the provisions of the constitution of the United States, unaltered in the mode pointed out by that instrument; and that we view with alarm every attempt to evade and render them nugatory, by any artificial combination, more especially one that may be made by a few of the large states, to defeat the beneficial provisions in favor of the smaller states.

*Resolved*, That if any part of the constitution be exceptionable, it ought to be changed—doubtful, tested:—That the people of this happy country do not require the interposition of any set of men nor to save them from themselves; that no period could be more auspicious, than the present making a fair trial of the mode of election established by the constitution.—That when this mode is found to be mischievous, a remedy may be constitutionally applied; but that we cannot believe, that the power constitutionally residing in the House of Representatives voting by states, is less safe with them or likely to be less beneficially exercised, than it would be by an irresponsible caucus.

*Resolved*, That a caucus nomination by the members of Congress under existing circumstances, instead of producing harmony, has a direct tendency to distract the country by a division into caucus and anti-caucus parties.

*Resolved*, That while other bodies are in a greater or less degree exposed to corruption and error, it is impossible to corrupt the great body of the people, and that if they be not interrupted in the exercise of their unalienable rights, their decisions must be honest and will probably be wise and judicious.

*Resolved*, That a full and free discussion of the merits of the several candidates for the Presidency, is essential to a judicious and enlightened choice; and that the excitement produced by it, is highly conducive to the health and vigor of the body politic.

*Resolved*, That it would be especially dangerous and improper for the members of the House of Representatives previously to pledge themselves to support any one of the candidates for the Presidency, between whom the constitution provides, that they shall in the last resort decide.

*Resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress would misrepresent the principles and feelings of their constituents, if they should not oppose a caucus nomination, and that they are requested to use their best endeavors to prevent such a proceeding.

*Resolved*, That his excellency the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The bill for the relief of Michael Ridlemoser, was read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

Mr. Elijah Burwick reports a bill entitled, an act to authorise the levy court of Caroline county to levy on the assessable property of said county the sums of money therein mentioned; which was read.

On motion by Mr. J. T. H. Worthington, leave given to bring in a bill entitled, a supplement to an act entitled, an act to authorise a lottery, to build a new house and school house in