

Gerry, E. B. Duvall, Wootton, Clark, Hughes, Nicholson, Tarbutt, Kemp, Peter, Bruce.—16.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Edmund B. Duvall reports a bill entitled, an act for the benefit of William C. Beard, of Prince George's county; which was read.

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

FRIDAY December, 12, 1823.

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

The bill for the relief of Catharine Fridley, of Washington county; and the bill to repeal the laws now in force for the destruction of crows in Caroline county, were sent to the senate.

Mr. Pitt presents a petition from Nancy Paul, of Dorchester county, praying she may be entitled to the property of her deceased son. Which was read and referred to Messrs. Pitt, Lockerman and Willis.

On motion by Mr. Sprigg, leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, an act to reduce the price of the states land in Allegany county. Ordered that Messrs. Sprigg, M'Henry, Fisher, Pitt and Merrick report the same.

The bill for the destruction of Panthers in Allegany county, was read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

The bill to authorise the register of wills of Frederick county, to collect debts due from the estate of deceased persons, was read the second time, and will not pass.

The speaker laid before the house a return from the clerk of Baltimore county, relative to the attendance of the judges. Which was read.

John S. Purnell, Esq. a delegate returned for Worcester county, appeared, qualified and took his seat.

Mr. Edelen reports a bill, entitled, an act for the relief of Nancy Cox, of Charles county.— And a bill, entitled, an act for the benefit of George W. Neal, of Charles county, and for other purposes. Which were read.

On motion by Mr. Pitt, the following resolutions were read:

WHEREAS, the history of all free governments has demonstrated, that the liberty of the people has been oftener destroyed by gradual and imperceptible encroachments, than by sudden and violent usurpations; that the stability of republican institutions has been mainly endangered by a restless spirit of innovation, or by the passive acquiescence of the people in measures founded upon false and specious principles of policy; and that the efforts of daring and vicious ambition to subvert them are chiefly to be dreaded when secret, or concealed by measures apparently having a tendency to promote the welfare and prosperity of the people. AND WHEREAS, it is the duty of a people, enjoying the blessings of a free form of government, vigilantly to observe the conduct of those to whom they entrust its administration, lest they overstep the boundaries prescribed for them, and assume powers inimical to their rights, & hostile to the purity and permanency of their institutions; it is also their imperious duty, their most precious prerogative, when their public functionaries shall adopt measures, or shall extra officially engage in proceedings tending to impair their sovereignty, or weaken or diminish their political privileges, to counteract or resist them by such means as their institutions may prescribe. AND WHEREAS, it is a fundamental principal of American policy, recognized in the constitution of the U. States, and the constitutions of the several states, that the sovereignty resides in the people, that they are the only legitimate source of power, and that they may delegate a portion of their sovereignty to their representatives to effect certain political purposes, defined by the constitution, for their common prosperity and welfare. AND WHEREAS, the constitution of the United States has vested the election of the chief magistrate of the republic in the people mediately by electors chosen by themselves. AND WHEREAS, any attempt to exert an undue influence on the minds, to sway the opinions, or prevent the fair, manly and unprejudiced expression of the sentiments of the people in the exercise of their most essential right, to elect their highest executive officer, is an arrogant assumption of power, an insolent and unauthorised interference with the people, equally insulting to their understanding, repugnant to the spirit of their institutions and destructive to their constitutional authority. AND WHEREAS, an opinion very generally prevails, that an attempt will be made during the present session of Congress, by means of a caucus nomination, to destroy the fair and legitimate operation of the public sentiment, in relation to the election of the next president of the United States, and direct it into a channel which will subserve the interests of a few intriguing and ambitious individuals:

Therefore, we the members of the Senate and House of Delegates of Maryland, expressing the sentiments of a large majority of our constituents, and viewing any attempt, by means of a congressional caucus nomination, to control the sentiments or to fetter the rights of the people to elect the President of the United States, as a just cause of alarm, and being seriously impressed with the conviction, that if such a precedent should be once firmly established, the constitution would be violated, the people deprived of a most essential branch of their sovereignty, & eventually the Congress of the U. States become an electoral college for the election of the President, thereby mutilating or perhaps entirely destroying the fair fabric of the republic, have

Resolved, That a caucus nomination of a candidate for the Presidency of the United States by the members of Congress, is inexpedient and repugnant to the spirit of the republican institutions of our country.

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