

Which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. Kennedy delivers the following report.

The committee appointed to bring in a bill to alter the time of electing representatives of this state in the congress of the United States, ask leave to report—

That under the present system of holding elections for representatives in congress, the election takes place on the first Monday in October, preceding the session when the term for which the representatives have been elected expires, and fourteen months before the representatives elect take their seats; and this system seems altogether at variance with the true principles of our government, in which immediate responsibility to the people is so strong a feature, for a member of congress is now entitled to hold his seat for one whole session after he may have lost the confidence of a majority of his constituents.

Every two years the session of congress expires on the fourth day of March, and the new congress meet on the first Monday in December following; and in case congress are called to meet at an earlier day, the president of the United States has to issue his proclamation giving notice thereof; your committee have therefore reported a bill, which provides that the next election for representatives in congress shall be held on the first Monday in April in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, and on the same day every second year thereafter, and which bill they consider ought to pass. All which is respectfully submitted.

By order,

Isaac Hines, Clk.

Which was read.

Also a bill, entitled, An act to alter the time of electing representatives of this state in the congress of the United States.

On motion by Mr. Hughes, the following message was read, assented to, and with the bill therein mentioned, was sent to the senate.

By the House of Delegates, Feb. 18, 1826]

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We return you the bill, entitled, An act to authorise William Plummer, of Montgomery county, to manumit the negro therein named. We think this a case entitled to legislative aid; the negro man, whose manumission is provided for by this bill, is represented as being honest and industrious, and having acted as a freeman some years, it is represented to us, and believed to be true, that he has collected together something considerable for his future support, and the object in view, in authorising his manumission, is to enable him to make legal contracts, and to invest in some way the rewards of his industry with safety. We apprehend that the object of the law prohibiting the manumission of slaves over forty-five years of age, was to prevent persons manumitting their old and worn out slaves to become chargeable to their respective counties, and as this bill leaves this negro in precisely the same situation that he is now in, as to his claims for support, in case he shall become unable to procure a subsistence, and provides that he shall in no event come upon the county for support, we cannot see any evil to be apprehended from the passage of the bill; we therefore hope, upon further