

We should be cautious in making changes in an instrument, the result of the deliberations of such men; and which contains more knowledge and judgment in poising and balancing its various powers, so as to reconcile conflicting feelings, prejudices and interests, than is to be found in any other monument of human genius, the annals of the world can furnish.

The foregoing views of this interesting topic, although not very materially differing from, are not in entire accord with those expressed in the resolutions. It is with the greatest respect and deference for the last general assembly that we entertain, and feel it our duty frankly to express them.

The establishment of a Naval Academy, has not yet been provided for. When such provision shall be made, we have no doubt but that the claims and advantages of the city of Annapolis, as a site for its location, will be duly considered and impartially decided upon.

By an act of congress approved the 18th day of May last, entitled, "An act authorising the building of light houses," &c. the wishes of the general assembly, expressed in the resolution No. 31, have been in the main complied with.

We caused to be prepared and transmitted to our senators and representatives in congress, such documents as we deemed, (or as was suggested by them to be,) necessary to support the claim against the United States, mentioned in the resolution of No. 38, and we have the satisfaction to inform you that an act of congress was passed authorising the proper accounting officers of the Treasury department to liquidate and settle the claim, by virtue of which the sum of \$66,563.22, has been allowed and paid to the Treasurer of the Western Shore.

In the adjustment of the claim, a wide difference of construction was put upon the act of congress, by the Treasurer of the Western Shore, who, by our direction, furnished a statement in behalf of the state, and by the third auditor of the treasury department of the United States, on whom the liquidation of the claim was devolved. The auditor made his objections by way of remarks upon the several items of the treasurer's statement, which were replied to by an elaborate and able argument by the treasurer in support of his statement, and the principles upon which it was founded, as well with reference to the act of congress, as to their intrinsic propriety and justice.

The auditor, it seems, could not be convinced that the act of congress authorised him to allow the claim as stated by the treasurer, and therefore, without contesting its merits, he adhered to his objections, and liquidated the claim upon principles which he believed to be prescribed by the act.

Whether a liberal construction of the act of congress would have authorised the auditor to settle the claim upon the principles contended for by the treasurer, we will not undertake to determine. But it appears to us most manifest, whether the fault be in the law, or in construing it, that the state has not obtained, by a considerable sum, the amount of her just and fair claim.

We submit to you, herewith, such documents as we consider necessary to give you a full understanding of the subject, that you may determine whether any, and if any, what steps shall be taken to obtain a further allowance.

Having understood that the attention of the general government has been seriously turned to an examination and consideration of the fitness and propriety of the establishment of a Navy Yard in the city of Baltimore, and believing that the result of the enquiry cannot but be favourable, we look forward with considerable confidence, to the attainment of that desirable object.

Immediately upon the adoption of the resolution appointing "a joint committee consisting of one member from the senate, and two (members) from the house of delegates, to visit the legislatures of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, to confer with those bodies respectively, upon