

gislature has the power to contract, separately, for the printing of the journal of its proceedings, and the supply of its own fuel, stationary, &c. The printing of the laws, as they are the joint acts of both houses, ought to be contracted for either jointly, or by a concurrent vote of the two houses. You propose entering into contracts both of the former and latter description. In making the necessary appropriation to carry such contracts into execution, the two houses are co-equal and co-ordinate. The consent of each is equally necessary to carry it into execution; the dissent of either is equally fatal. We therefore conceive, that the committee from this house should be equal to that of yours. The measure we proposed we do not regard as a departure from our legislative usage, for although we are aware that the legislature of the last year did constitute a joint committee for a similar purpose, with the relative number you propose; yet we do not conceive that this solitary and isolated case can be termed usage. If so, it is the usage of the legislature, that the house of delegates shall separately contract for the printing of the laws, and the journal of the senate, for so it was done in eighteen hundred and twenty-four. We believe that never, until the last year, and in the above case, did the house of delegates propose a specific number for the adjunct committee from the senate to consist of. When the joint committees are small, the senate generally sends an equal number with your house; when they are large, the paucity of our numbers compels us to send a smaller committee, enjoined by necessity, not by want of respect to your body. Notwithstanding, for the sake of that harmony between the two houses, the subsistence of which is so essential to public welfare, we have assented to your first message on this subject, proposing to us a joint contracting committee, and have appointed Messrs. Forrest, Thomas, and Nelson, to join the gentlemen named in your message. But lest such a measure may hereafter ripen into usage, we have made the above remarks, by way of protest, and have instructed the committee appointed by the senate to act integrally.

By order,

Wm. Kilty, Clk.

On motion by Mr. Teackle, the following message was read.

By the House of Delegates, Dec. 30, 1826.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We have received your message of this day's date, relative to the public printing, and concur therewith.

Mr. Speed moved the following as a substitute.

By the House of Delegates, Dec. 30, 1826.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We have received your message of this morning relative