

By the House of Delegates, 1st January 1827.
Gentlemen of the Senate,

We have received your message proposing a joint committee on the part of the senate and house of delegates, to wait on his excellency the governor, to inform him of his re-election, and to request his attendance in the senate chamber to qualify according to the constitution in that case made and provided. We consent to the proposition, and have named Messrs. Banning and Buchanan, to join the gentlemen appointed by your honourable body.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill, entitled, An act to alter and change the name of James Tolley Howard, of Harford county, to James Walter Tolley, endorsed 'will pass.' Ordered that said bill be engrossed. And also delivered a bill, entitled, An act to change the christian name of Thomas Littleton Robins, the infant son of James B. Robins, late of Worcester county, deceased, originated in, and passed by the senate; which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Goldsborough reported a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of John Wheeler, of Dorchester county; which was twice read by special order and passed.

Mr. Goldsborough also reported a bill, entitled, An act for the removal and prevention of obstructions to the navigation of the rivers Transquakin and Chicknamacomico, in Dorchester county; which was read and laid on the table.

Mr. Bennett reported a bill, entitled, An act to abolish imprisonment for debt within this state; which was read and laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Edward Hughes, the following preamble and order were twice read and adopted.

Whereas by an act passed at the last session of the legislature, the courts of this state are authorised to sentence to transportation and sale for certain offences, free negroes and mulattoes, for a limited time, and to furnish, or cause to be furnished to said convicts, a transcript on parchment, of the record and judgment of the court.

And whereas it is obvious that great abuses will prevail under said law, inasmuch as it is to be apprehended that in most cases the sentence of sale and banishment for one year, will in effect amount to a sale and banishment for life, the transcript furnished being in all cases liable to be destroyed by the purchaser. And no provision being made to prevent the return of convicts to the state, within the time limited, or to prevent their being resold within the limits of the state, therefore,

Ordered, That the committee on grievances and courts of justice be instructed to inquire into said subject, and to