

They were received in some of the Counties on the first of July and in others at a later period according to the distance from the Seat of Government and the difficulty of finding a conveyance.

The resolution of December Session 1834 No 79, required the Governor and Council, to publish such laws of a public nature as they deemed necessary in one newspaper in each County of this State in which a paper is published, and two newspapers in the City of Baltimore. The resolutions of December Session 1835 No 79, and of December Session 1836 No 48, made provision for a similar publication of the laws; and this renewal of the original resolution was considered by the Executive as a sufficient proof, that the Legislature intended to confine the operation of each of them to the year in which it was passed.

At December Session 1837, no resolution was adopted, but the House of Delegates by an order directed the Secretary of State to cause to be published to wit in five newspapers in the City of Baltimore, and two newspapers in the City of Annapolis, and all the papers of the several Counties of this State, the two acts allowing and amending the Constitution and form of Government of this State, passed at December Session 1836 and confirmed at December Session 1837.

At the last session the following resolution was passed by the House of Delegates: Resolved that the Secretary of State be required to publish such laws of a public nature as he may deem necessary in one newspaper of each County in which a newspaper is printed, and in two newspapers in the City of Baltimore."

This resolution was similar in its provisions to that of 1834, and to that which followed in the two succeeding years; except that it gave to the Secretary of State instead of the Council the discretion of selecting the laws for publication. This resolution was rejected by the Senate as will be seen by a reference to page 663 of the Journal of Proceedings. As the resolution requiring the publication of the laws in the newspapers expired in 1836; as no provision was made for this purpose in 1837; and as a similar resolution was rejected in 1838, the inference was drawn, that the Legislature did not intend to invest the Executive with any power or discretion in relation to this subject.

My answer therefore to the first enquiry is, that none of "the acts of Assembly of December Session 1838 have been published in the papers" by order of the Executive; and to the second that having explained the manner in which those laws were published which proposed Constitutional Amendments, I leave it to the House of Delegates to determine whether they were published as required by the Constitution.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully, Your Obedt. Servant

Signed Wm. G. Mason

January 8th 1840

January 11th

Message The Governor's report to the Senate and address to both Houses - the report of the Directors of the Penitentiary - a letter and resolutions from the President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company - a letter from the President of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company -