

days of March, and the first amendment rejected. A motion to reject the second amendment of the senate depending, the previous question being called for; a question of order arose; the call for the previous question was waived, and the question on said amendment being put, it was also rejected. Mr. Harris then moved to amend the third amendment of the senate by adding to it the following proviso, which, I think, was prepared by myself, and written in the house on a slip of yellow paper: "And provided also that before the treasurer shall give the endorsement authorized by this act, he shall first have received such testimony as to him shall be satisfactory, that the State is made fully and absolutely secure from the payment of the interest on the said loan by a satisfactory policy of insurance:" which being accepted, the amendment as amended was agreed to, and the house reconsidered the two other amendments, which were agreed to also; and the bill, passed as amended, was returned to the senate, and is chap. 220 of 1832: the president and some of the directors having asked me to advise the passage of that act, which I did very cheerfully, being as I was of the opinion that the work to Westminster ought to be constructed, and might be patronized by the State with safety.

Of the correctness of that opinion, I tried to convince Wm. D. Merrick, but without success. He told me that he would willingly patronize the construction of the main road towards the Susquehanna river; when Pennsylvania would appropriately authorize its being extended to that stream, so as to intersect the works of that State, and thus make it an important link, in a long chain of improvements, that would connect Baltimore with the great valley of that State; but that he could not favor the road to Westminster by a grant of State aid. These his then views will be found distinctly repeated in a report which he made on the 8th of January, 1834, upon an application preferred by this company for relief, see house journal 1833, folio 105, 106. The relief that was finally proposed to be given to said company is set forth in a bill offered as a substitute by Mr. Pratt on the 25th February, 1834, H. J., 1833, folio 375; and which proposed that so much of the act, chap. 220, of 1832, should be repealed *as required that before the treasurer should endorse the bonds* of said company, he should first have received such testimony as to him should be satisfactory, that the State was made fully and absolutely secure, by a satisfactory policy of insurance from the payment of the interest on the loan which that company might negotiate to the extent of \$350,000 on its bonds; and which bill, with the original and its substitute, were then, on motion of Wm. W. Handy, postponed indefinitely, see H. J. 1833, folio 375.

I endeavored at this session, also, to convince Wm. D. Merrick that aid might be extended by the State to said company, without any risk of loss or burthen. I presented for his approbation, a plan, by which I thought the accuracy of this proposition was demonstrated. It proposed that the treasurer should dispose of State six per cent. stock irredeemable for thirty years;