

cited by way of illustration, and are but very few of the many instances or cases which might have been adduced to point out what were not money bills, in the opinion and judgment of the framers of our government. The bill, to which this message particularly relates, certainly does not come within the above definition of a money bill, and although it is not comprised among the enumerated cases illustrating what are not money bills, as defined by the form of government, it surely cannot be fairly inferred from that omission, that the said bill is a money bill; for if this inference be just, then every bill levying money on the people for any purpose whatever, not particularised by the exception in the 11th section, although within the reason of that exception, is a money bill, and then this other absurd consequence must be admitted, that a money bill, though ever so logically and truly defined, would not be a money bill within the definition given, if not also within the particularised exception to that definition, which would be saying, that the same identical bill is a money bill, and that it is not a money bill. Wherefore, those bills only, as we conceive, can be properly styled money bills within the meaning and spirit of the constitution, which impose, assess, levy, or apply taxes for the general support of government, and provide for the annual expences thereof. Bills for raising money from the people for this general purpose, and applying monies when so raised and brought into the treasury to general governmental uses, not to any local or partial use of a county, town or parish; we consider as a money bill, within the meaning of the constitution. Bills which impose duties or customs for the mere regulation of commerce, which inflict fines for the reformation of morals, or to enforce the execution of laws, and from which an incidental revenue may arise, are expressly declared not to be money bills. Pursuing this principle of the constitution, and tracing it to all its consequences, we may safely conclude, that where a general revenue was not the main object in view of the legislature in passing laws for the purposes just mentioned, or for such as are still more partial and circumscribed, although a considerable sum may flow into the treasury from all those sources collectively, that such laws cannot come within the definition of a money bill, laid down in our form of government.

We are fully satisfied no inconvenience or mischief would accrue to the public, were the senate at liberty, not only to amend, but to originate money bills; but the framers of our constitution have thought differently, and we are bound by their decision. As we have experienced much embarrassment, and the public business has been frequently delayed and obstructed, by this house not having the right to amend money bills, we shall be very careful how we subscribe to the doctrine, that the bills which you may be pleased to style money bills, become really such on that account. If the construction we have given to that part of the form of government relating to money bills, be a true one, it must be admitted, that bills for raising money on the inhabitants of a particular county, for a particular county, or local purpose, are not money bills. The bill, the rejection of which on a first reading has occasioned this message, we are clearly of opinion is not a money bill. This very opinion has been implicitly admitted by your house this very session, and but a few days ago, when you passed the bill for the relief of the poor in the counties of Dorchester and Somerset, although amended by us. If the bill for the regulation of the poor in the several counties of this state, and the relief of indigent mariners, is a money bill, the bill for the relief of the poor in the counties of Dorchester and Somerset is also a money bill; in passing the latter, if a money bill, you have been inattentive to your privilege, if it be not a money bill, you expose yourselves to the charge of inconsistency, by refusing to pass a bill as being a money bill, when you gave your assent to one nearly similar in its object, and formed upon principles exactly similar. On consideration we think you will retract an opinion which you seem to have hazarded too hastily; we therefore return you the bill for the regulation of the poor in the several counties of this state, and for the relief of indigent mariners, and for repairing the poor-house in Baltimore county, under a persuasion that it will obtain your assent, if the regulations it contains should appear to you unexceptionable; for the principle of the bill must meet, not merely the cool assent, but the hearty approbation of every man of feeling and humanity.

By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

The amendment to the bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act allowing a longer time to compound on old certificates, and making further regulations respecting the sale of vacant lands, was read, dissented to, and the bill ordered to be entered on the journals of the senate.

A Supplement to the act allowing a longer time to compound on old certificates, and making further regulations respecting the sale of vacant lands.

BE it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That where the caution money has been paid on any warrant issued before the fourth day of July seventeen hundred and seventy six, and such warrant hath not been executed or applied, or where, if applied, no patent can be obtained on the certificate, that the person owning the same shall have a right to apply the costs thereof to the payment of any new warrant hereafter to be taken out, or to the payment of composition money due, or to be due, on any certificate, and the treasurers of the respective shores shall receive such warrant, and allow the party for the same, at the rate of one shilling and eightpence current money for every acre of land in such warrant, and the treasurers respectively shall keep such warrants as their vouchers.

And be it enacted, That no caution or composition money shall be required for any surplus land on any certificate now or hereafter to be returned, on resurvey of any tract or part of a tract of land granted before the first day of January seventeen hundred and seventy-seven.

And