

members. These combined considerations also furnish additional and powerful motives for admitting their constituents to a knowledge of their deliberations, and to a minute inspection of their general and individual conduct, and we hold it no sound argument that the admission could extend only to the inhabitants of the seat of their deliberations. When the curtain is withdrawn, any audience will command respect from those who act on the theatre of public life, and sentiments, that would be avowed under the veil of privacy, would then shrink from inspection.

But we learn from experience, that the calls of public and private business constantly draw well-informed citizens from all parts of the union to the seat of government; these continually going and returning, would disseminate the principles of their deliberations; but above all, the press already conveys a general history of the debates of the representative branch of government, which, if not accurate, may at all times be corrected by the publications of members misrepresented, and furnishes all parts of the confederacy with an ample idea of the capacity and conduct of their immediate representatives. The same effects may be reasonably expected from the publication of the debates of that body; and although they might be protracted to a greater length, of which we doubt, as the vanity of appearing conspicuous will not probably operate so strongly on men of riper years, and as the order enforced by inspection would exclude lengthy conversations; yet, as this branch are obliged to continue in session during the whole time occupied by the deliberations of the other, it is reasonable to conclude, that the greater number of that body, and consequently of persons who engage in debate, will consume more time than could be compensated by the greater variety of senatorial duties, if such do exist.

But whatever may have been the original policy or impolicy of the measure, it has now assumed a more serious aspect. The refusal of that honourable body to comply with the urgent desires of so respectable a proportion of their constituents, unopposed by the declared approbation of their conduct by any part of the union, can hardly, we think, be justified by any refinement of theory. If the refusal to open their doors created a jealousy, which has hitherto worn the face of remonstrance, or discovered itself in instructions, requiring that their legislative deliberations should be public, their absolute refusal to comply, seems calculated to inspire suspicion; confidence leaves the bosom that suspicion once enters, and rarely returns. We, your immediate constituents, satisfied that this free communication of our sentiments will produce the desired effect, assure you, that we deem a compliance with the wishes expressed from the various parts of the union, that their doors should be open would sitting in their legislative capacity, as essential to the preservation of that entire confidence which the whole union ought to repose in that honourable body.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Elizabeth Dorsey, executrix of Thomas Dorsey, late of Anne-Arundel county, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 13, 1791: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 13, 1791: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the bill, entitled, A supplement to the act for licensing and regulating ordinary keepers, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 12, 1791: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 13, 1791: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was ordered to be engrossed.

The resolution respecting Henry Sibell, was sent to the house of delegates by the clerk of the senate.

The senate adjourns till to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, December 14, 1791.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday. John Eager Howard, Esquire, appeared in the senate. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 14, 1791.

RESOLVED, That Margaret Fisher, the executrix of Adam Fisher, late collector of the tax of Frederick county, and her securities, be and they are hereby released from the debt due by them to the state, upon their paying to the state the sum of fifteen hundred pounds in such certificates as may be receivable in payment of arrearages of taxes, and indemnifying the state from all costs accruing on suits or executions on their bonds; and upon the securities producing to the governor and council the certificate of George Murdock and Richard Potts, Esquires, that they have secured to Margaret Fisher, during her life, the annual interest of the balance remaining due on the said bond, after payment of the said sum of fifteen hundred pounds, and to her children, the principal to be equally divided between them after her death.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read the first and second time by especial order, assented to, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk of the senate.