

bly therein mentioned, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 19, 1792: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order, W. HARWOOD, clk.
 "By the house of delegates, December 20, 1792: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.
 "By order, W. HARWOOD, clk."

And the following address:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 20, 1792.
 To the honourable JOHN HENRY and RICHARD POTTS.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the legislature of Maryland, have beheld with great regret the want of success in two several motions in the senate of the United States, to open the doors of their house.

The reasons, however cogent, which led to determinations so opposite to the already declared sense of a considerable proportion of the confederacy, remain suppressed in that secrecy which those votes seem designed to perpetuate. Lest silent acquiescence may be improperly construed into implied approbation, and as such tend to weaken the efforts of other states, we do not hesitate again to declare our sense against those determinations of that honourable body.

In free governments the authority and sanction of the laws in a great measure depend on the influence of opinion; the public mind, therefore, cannot be too thoroughly possessed of the reasons which influenced their adoption, and if the motives of measures fairly exposed and generally communicated, will not secure them public approbation, they generally furnish conclusive arguments against their continuance. Mystery is the garb of tyranny; whilst free government, founded on reason, derives new strength from every inquiry. The duration of the time for which they are elected, and the different periods at which their offices expire, render that body, in effect, permanent. They admit no constitutional mode by which an entire change could be effected, should ever corruption pervade the mass, or taint their proceedings, and they afford but few opportunities of withdrawing the confidence once improperly reposed in individual members. These combined considerations 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, for 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 constantly 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 house of representatives, 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 conduct of their immediate representatives. The same effects may reasonably be expected from the publication of the debates of the senate; 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 neglect to open their doors created a jealousy, which has hitherto worn the face of remonstrance, or discovered itself in instructions, requiring that their legislative deliberation should be public, their absolute refusal to comply, seems calculated to inspire suspicion, and confidence leaves the bosom which suspicion has once entered, and rarely returns. We have seen, with peculiar concern, the little attention which has been paid by one of yourselves, our immediate representatives, to the unanimous voice of your constituents, expressed in their instructions of the session of this legislature at November last; we therefore again, and in more positive terms, assure you, that we deem a compliance with the wishes expressed from the various parts of the union, that the doors of the senate should be opened whilst 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, and we call on you to use your unremitting exertions to effect so important a measure.

By order, W. HARWOOD, clk.

The bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, was read the second time and will not pass, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk of the senate.

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

F R I D A Y, December 21, 1792.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except George Dent, Esquire. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The president communicates to the senate a letter from George Dent, Esquire, resigning his seat in the senate; and thereupon the senate proceeded to the choice of a president; the ballot box being prepared, the ballots were deposited therein, and upon examination thereof it appeared, that William Perry, Esquire, was elected. Whereupon, it is declared, that William Perry, Esquire, is president of the senate.

The bill, entitled, An act to regulate the exportation of potash and pearlsh, was ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, entitled, An act to restrain the ill practices of sheriffs, and to direct their conduct respecting runaways, the bill, entitled, An act to revive and aid the proceedings of the orphans court of Saint-Mary's county, the bill, entitled, A Supplement to the act for the establishment and regulation