

contagion of faction, and the unfounded suspicions of prejudice. Besides, from a body durable as the senate, and appointed in the manner prescribed by the constitution, more experience in business, more steadiness of conduct, and consistency of views, are to be expected, than from biennial representatives, owing frequently their election as much to party zeal as to merit. The quick rotation of senators proposed to be established by the amendment would deprive the senate of those advantages, which, as at present constituted, it derives from that degree of stability imparted to it by a longer continuance in the trust of its members.

The fourth amendment was evidently levelled at the appointment of Mr. Jay as envoy extraordinary to the court of London, and no doubt was intended as an indirect censure of that measure. However, it does not strike the committee, that the appointment of a judge on a momentous occasion, to execute a temporary and particular commission, has been or can be attended with any inconvenience or danger to the public.

If the preceding observations and reasoning are just, the committee submit the following resolve, as proper to be passed by the legislature.

RESOLVED, That the first and third amendments, proposed in last December by the legislature of Virginia to be made to the constitution or frame of government for the United States, ought not to be adopted, because, in the opinion of the legislature, they would give too great a preponderancy to the house of representatives, and thus derange the balance of reciprocal control, checks and powers, so happily devised and distributed among the component parts of the federal government, and thereby endanger the liberty of the people; that the second and fourth amendments are particularly inexpedient, as not being warranted by the experience of any evils which have resulted from the government as now constituted, or from its administration.

The committee also beg leave to report, that the annual interchange of laws, as proposed by the general assembly of Virginia, may be attended with beneficial effects, and therefore recommend the following resolve:

RESOLVED, That the governor of this state be requested to inform the governor of the commonwealth of Virginia, that the legislature of this state have acceded to their proposition of an annual interchange of the laws of their respective states, and also to an exchange of the existing code of laws in each state, and that the governor be requested to procure the said laws, and determine and fix upon the means for carrying this resolution into effect.

By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

The senate adjourns until 5 o'clock.

P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met.

The senate adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, December 22, 1796.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except the honourable John S. Purnell, Esquire, who had leave of absence. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The bill, entitled, An act respecting two tracts of land lying in Allegany county, the one called Grassly Cabin, the other called The Desert, the bill, entitled, An act for the destruction of crows in the several counties therein mentioned, with the amendments thereto, and the bill, entitled, An act to lay out a road from Deep Point in Cornwallis's neck, in Charles county, until it shall intersect the public road at the New House, on the head of Mattawoman creek, in said county, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The bill, entitled, An act permitting the proprietors of lots binding on the water at the west end of the basin in Baltimore-town to extend and improve the same, was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The honourable John Campbell, Esquire, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to authorize and empower the vestry of William and Mary parish, in Charles county, to sell and dispose of the negroes belonging to said parish, and for other purposes; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill, entitled, An additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the removal of the seat of justice from Melville's warehouse to Pig Point, in Caroline county, was read the second time and will pass.

On motion, the honourable William H. Dorsey, Esquire, brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to correct a misnomer in an act, entitled, An act concerning the bank stock; which was read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

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

By THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 22, 1796.

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to Alexander Contee Hanson one thousand dollars, as a compensation for the system of testamentary laws by him prepared and laid before this session of assembly.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

The bill, entitled, An act to incorporate the Roman catholic congregation worshipping at the church of Saint-Mary, in the vicinity of Bryan-town, in Charles county, was read the second time and will pass with proposed amendment.

Amendment