

The clerk of the house of delegates returns the bill, entitled, An act supplementary to the act, entitled, A supplement to the act for the establishment and regulation of levy courts in the several counties of this state, thus endorsed; "By the house of delegates, January 3, 1799: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, January 7, 1799: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendment.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Amendment proposed. Strike out the title of the bill, and insert "A bill, entitled, An act to repeal part of an act, entitled, A supplement to the act for the establishment of levy courts in the several counties of this state."

Which amendment was agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The senate, agreeably to the order of the day, took up the second reading of the bill, entitled, An act to enable Wilhem and Jan Willink, merchants in Amsterdam, to purchase and hold real property in the town of Havre-de-Grace, in Harford county, and the question was put, That the words "and assigns" in the 3d line of the 2d page of the said bill be stricken out? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Mr. Campbell, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Chesley and Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Mechen. 5.

N E G A T I V E.

Mr. Perry, president, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Grahame, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Milligan. 7.

So it was determined in the negative.

The bill being read throughout, the question was put, That the said bill be amended, by adding the following proviso? "Provided, That the said assigns shall be either citizens of the United States at the time of such assignment, or such foreigners as shall, on their arrival in this country, proceed to make themselves citizens of the United States by all legal means in their power, and in case of their neglecting so to do, the property so assigned shall be and is hereby confiscated for the use of the state." Which was determined in the affirmative.

The question was then put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Mr. Perry, president, Mr. Carroll, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Grahame, Mr. Forrest, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Chesley and Mr. Milligan. 8.

N E G A T I V E.

Mr. Campbell, Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Mechen. 4.

So it was determined in the affirmative.

On motion, Mr. M<sup>c</sup>Mechen delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to alter and change the time for holding the county courts in Washington county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Milligan, from the committee appointed to prepare a message to be sent to the house of delegates with the bill, entitled, An act for the encouragement of learning in the several counties in this state, and to establish an uniform system of education, delivers to the president the following:

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 7, 1799.

GENTLEMEN,

WE deem the advancement of literature an object of primary importance, and are happy at all times to find your attention directed to that object. We have, however, on mature deliberation, negatived your bill, being persuaded, that on weighing this important subject, you will agree with us in thinking it more advisable to endow a number of respectable seminaries, already established in different parts of the state, than to create the institutions you propose.

The first have the great advantage of being already established, are supplied with able teachers, and afford every hope of general and permanent utility, while the latter, from the thinness of our population, and the inadequacy of the proposed funds to the employment of even one respectable teacher, can operate but very partial, and very local advantages. Accordingly we propose to you to grant a donation of one thousand dollars per annum to each of the following schools, to wit: To Charlotte-Hall school, in Saint-Mary's county, Frederick county school, in Frederick-town, Washington academy, in Somerset county, and to Easton school, in Talbot county.

Although we think the prosperity of institutions of this kind are much dependent on the confidence of the public in the permanency of their endowments, and should with great caution withdraw funds appropriated to literary uses, yet, where an institution is on experience found not to answer the intention and views of the original founders, the measure may be adopted without establishing an improper precedent.

Under these impressions, we are willing to concur with you in withdrawing from the funds of Washington college the sum of five hundred pounds, it appearing to us, from the best information, that the seminary will suffer no material injury from the deduction, and that the general diffusion of literature will be greatly aided by the addition we are thereby enabled to make to the funds of the above-mentioned seminaries. And we beg leave further to suggest, that when there shall be