

and therefor, have become a theme of general reprehension and complaint. Had not a considerable portion of the members of the general assembly left Annapolis on the faith of the message of the house of delegates proposing a close of the session, the senate would cheerfully co-operate in the general revisal of the fee bill of 1779, but conceiving that this measure, which is of primary magnitude, requires the most mature deliberation, extensive investigation, and the procurement of public documents from every part of the state, they are of opinion that it ought not to be acted on but under the scrutiny of every member of the legislature, and when introduced to their consideration at an early period of their session.

Without expressing any opinion as to the propriety of reducing the fees of the register in chancery, to which the attention of the senate has been particularly invited, they conceive that a trivial and partial correction of an extensive public evil would lead to a suspension of an entire and general corrective. They would also suggest that the fees of other officers have been a more fertile source of public complaint and general inconvenience than those of the register in chancery; that although in some instances this officer's fees may exceed those allowed to the clerks of county courts and clerks of the court of appeals, yet that numerous services might be detailed, for the performance of which these clerks are allowed very liberal fees, when the register in chancery is required to perform services of the same nature without any compensation whatever; that by an act of assembly passed in 1715, ch. 48, all persons instituting suits in the court of any county of which they are nonresidents, are compelled to give good security for the payment of officers fees, which renders the collection of county clerks fees much more certain than that of the register of chancery, who is under the necessity of transmitting small fee lists to every county in the state, a great portion of which, from a variety of circumstances not within his control, are never collected; they would also take the liberty of mentioning, that the clerk of the court of appeals, the change in whose fees appears to have so particularly attracted the attention of the house of delegates, is allowed annually by the general assembly a considerable sum of money for transcribing dockets; when the same services are rendered by the county clerks and register in chancery, without any pretence of claim for remuneration. The senate decline a reconsideration of the bill to regulate the fees of the register of the court of chancery.

By order,

T. ROGERS, clk.

The resolutions relative to the purchase of swords, pistols, cartridge boxes and knapsacks, were severally read the second time by especial order and assented to.

The bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a company for the purpose of building a bridge over the river Susquehanna, was read the second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendments.

Amendments proposed. 1. Strike out the first "and" in the 4th line of the 1st page. 2. After the word "Belt" in the 4th line of the 1st page insert "Jonathan Ellicott and Robert Stuart." 3. Strike out the word "on" in the 2d line of the 4th page and insert "one month before."

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

S A T U R D A Y, December 24, 1808.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read. The bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a company for the purpose of building a bridge over the river Susquehanna, the bill, entitled, A further supplement to the act, entitled, An act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, the bill, entitled, An act to regulate the fees of the register of the court of chancery, with the message relative thereto, and the resolutions relative to the purchase of swords, pistols, cartridge boxes and knapsacks, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers a bill, entitled, A further additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to provide for the administration of justice in the cases of crimes and misdemeanors in the city and county of Baltimore, and for other purposes; a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate the convention of the protestant episcopal church in Maryland, severally passed by that house December 23, 1808; a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act, entitled, An act for regulating the mode of staying executions, and repealing the acts of assembly therein mentioned, a bill, entitled, An act to straighten and lay out a road in Baltimore and Harford counties, severally passed by that house December 24, 1808; and the following resolutions:

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 23, 1808.

RESOLVED, That the number of four thousand stand of arms, and the horsemens swords and pistols, directed to be purchased by this legislature, and subject to the order of the executive, when provided, shall be deposited equally in the arsenals on the eastern and western shores of this state, and distributed by the executive among the militia only when called into actual service, and if our quota should be actually called for by the general government, then such distribution shall be considered only by way of loan to the general government.

By order,

J. BREWER, clk.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 24, 1808.

RESOLVED, That all proceedings be further stayed on a judgment obtained against John Smith Brooks, of George's county, at the suit of the state, until the first day of December next, on his paying up all the debt due thereon.

By order,

J. BREWER, clk.