

ished and every deficiency provided for. A military and naval force raised, with all the necessary munitions of war, competent to repel any hostile invasion, and commensurate with the plans and schemes of conquest. Such a state of preparation would banish all apprehension of entangling alliances with that ferocious despotism, which has blotted from the map of Europe every republic of the old world. In the application of these remarks to the course of policy pursued by the government of the United States, every friend to his country will at once discover, that it is calculated to excite the liveliest anxiety and alarm. After an unprecedented perseverance in a system of commercial restrictions, producing individual distress and national impoverishment, our country is committed in a war with a powerful and formidable foe, without adequate preparation; with an inefficient military force, with a reduced navy and with an exhausted treasury. To obviate the immediate and oppressive difficulties of the crisis, militia and volunteers are subjected to field and garrison duty, and called upon to supply the deficiency of regulars; enormous sums are to be raised by loans and taxes, and a neighboring colony of the enemy is invaded by detachments of undisciplined troops, imperfectly supplied with necessaries. Under such circumstances, folly only can expect success; and should further defeat, disgrace and disaster accompany our military operations, the gloomy anticipation of an unnatural alliance with the conqueror of continental Europe will naturally be indulged. Thus embarked in a disastrous contest, the nation, harrassed and debilitated by its continuance, will sigh for peace, and for its attainment the immediate and important objects contended for will be abandoned. The avowed causes of this war were the orders in council and the impressment of American seamen; the first of these causes is removed, and may reasonably be inferred from the communications of the President of the United States to congress, respecting the negotiations with the British government, that the latter might be adjusted to the satisfaction of both nations.

Influenced by these considerations, and believing it to be an imperious duty of the House of Delegates of Maryland, elected with a view to our present foreign relations to express the opinion of their constituents relative to the present state of public affairs. Therefore

*Resolved*, That a defensive war ought to be prosecuted and sustained at all hazards; and for this purpose we are at all times prepared to undergo any privations, and to devote our lives and fortunes to the public service.

*Resolved*, That offensive war is incompatible with the principles of republicanism, subversive of the ends of all just government and repugnant to the best interests of the United States.

*Resolved*, That the declaration of war against Great Britain, by a small majority of the congress of the United States was unwise and impolitic, and if unsuccessful, the objects professed to be contended for will be rendered less attainable.

*Resolved*, That it is at all times the unalienable right of freemen, fully and openly to investigate the conduct of their rulers, and that we will, on every occasion, vindicate the freedom of speech and of the press, and that the definition of treason given by the constitution of the United States, is the only one sanctioned by justice and rational liberty.

*Resolved*, That the conduct of the Governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, respecting the quota of militia demanded from them respectively by the Secretary of War of the United States, was constitutional and merits our decided approbation.

*Resolved*, That a navy is the kind of national defence least dangerous to liberty, and most compatible with the genius, habits and interests of the people of the U. States, and whilst we view with delight, admiration and enthusiasm, the heroism of a Hull, a Decatur, a Jones and their gallant associates, we are furnished with additional motives for approbation of the policy of augmenting the naval force of our country.

The house adjourns until to morrow morning 9 o'clock.

THURSDAY, December 24, 1812.

THE House met.—Present the same members as on yesterday.—The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Wm. B. Williams has leave of absence.

Mr. Griffith delivers a petition from Charles Thompson of Dorchester county, praying that his title to certain lands purchased by him without having been naturalized, may be confirmed; which was read and referred to Messrs. Griffith, Lecompte and John Stewart.

The bill entitled, an act for the relief of Andrew Porter Evans, a purchaser of confiscated property; the bill entitled an act for the benefit of the Presbyterian congregation of Queen Ann's and Caroline counties; the bill entitled an act for the benefit of Margaret Lamb of the city of Annapolis; the bill entitled an act to repeal an act entitled, an act to change the name of Georgetown cross roads in Kent county; the bill entitled, an act to establish and confirm the Fall-turnpike road from the city of Baltimore to Richard Caton's lime kiln; the bill entitled an act to ascertain the allowance of jurors in certain cases; the bill entitled, an act to make public an old road leading from South River church to intersect the Annapolis road to West river; the bill entitled, an act for the benefit of Ann Matilda Hebb, an infant child of Wm. Hebb of Prince George's county; the bill entitled, an act to make public a road in Queen Ann's county; and the bill entitled, an act to alter, change and repeal all such parts of the constitution and form of government of this state as relate to the division of Prince George's county into election districts, were severally read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

The bill entitled, a supplement to an act passed at November session, 1796, entitled, an act respecting the roads in Somerset and Worcester counties; the bill entitled, an act for the improvement of the Baltimore Theatre; the bill entitled, an act for the relief of James Fennell; the bill entitled, an act for the benefit of James Gouty, Mary Gouty, Lucretia Gouty and John Stevens Gouty, orphan children of Zachariah Gouty, late of Caroline county, deceased; the bill entitled, an act for the relief of George Michael Conradt, of Frederick county; the bill entitled, an act to repeal so much of the laws of this state as requires property qualification in jurors; the bill entitled, a further additional supplement to the act entitled an act to direct descents; the bill entitled, an act relating to the governor and council of this