

OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

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It being by the constitution the duty of the general government to provide for the common defence, we have represented to the Secretary of War some time since, the exposed and defenceless situation of many parts of Maryland. So much of the correspondence with that officer as has relation to this subject, accompanies this communication. A copy of a letter written by this department to the president of the United States, being in part connected with this subject, is also transmitted: To this letter no answer has been received.

A vacancy in the senate of the United States having happened during the recess of the legislature, the executive proceeded, in conformity to the provisions of the constitution of the United States to make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the legislature, and the honorable Robert Henry Goldsborough of Talbot county was appointed and has been commissioned.

Upon the approach of the enemy to the seat of government, it was deemed expedient to order a removal of the public records. The legislature will take any order that may be thought necessary in relation to them.

We have thought it proper to introduce these subjects to your notice at the commencement of a session which has been directed in consequence of the present alarming state of things.

We had hoped that answers from the officers of the general government, to the communications which we have had the honor to make to them, would have enabled us to have given some assurances of future protection and security. To provide for the common defence was one of the important objects for which the federal constitution was formed; to protect each state against invasion is made the imperative duty of the national government, and for that purpose every necessary power is delegated to the national authorities. The means of defence reserved to the state governments are very limited and their powers in the conduct of a war defined. If, however, the general government should fail to afford adequate security against the violence of the enemy, the law of self preservation, which belongs to communities as well as to individuals, would demand that every effort which it is in our power to make should be made for the safety of the state. But it seems necessarily to follow, as the defence of the union and of the several parts of it has been committed to the general government, that all expences incurred in affording protection by the several states ought to be reimbursed by the United States. It would be proper therefore, to authorise by law the appointment of officers to keep regular accounts (with the proper vouchers) of the expences to which the state may be subjected.

We have the honor to be, with much respect, your obedient servants,

LEVIN WINDER.

Which, with the accompanying documents was read and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion by Mr. Lecompte, *Ordered*, that five hundred copies of the communication of the executive, with the accompanying documents be printed for the use of the members.

On motion by Mr. Young, *Ordered*, that the committee of claims be instructed to have printed all papers ordered by this house to be printed during the present session.

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

TUESDAY, May 18, 1813.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Frederick Boyer, Esquire, a delegate from Kent county; Peter Emerson, Esquire, a delegate from Calvert county; Nicholas Stonestreet and Clement Dorsey, Esquires, delegates from Charles county; Tobias E. Stansbury, Esquire, a delegate from Baltimore county; Jabez Caldwell, Esquire, a delegate from Talbot county; Arnold E. Jones, Esquire, a delegate from Somerset county; John R. Evans, Esquire, a delegate from Cecil county; Ephraim K. Wilson and Robert I. H. Handy, Esquires, delegates from Worcester county; John Forwood (of Wm.) Esquire, a delegate from Harford county; William B. Barney, Esquire, a delegate from the city of Baltimore, and John Bowles, Henry Lewis & William B. Williams, Esquires, delegates from Washington county, appeared in the house and took their seats.

On motion by Mr. Dorsey, leave given to bring in a bill entitled, an act to revive the act entitled, a further supplement to the act entitled, an act for regulating the mode of staying executions, and repealing the acts of assembly therein mentioned and for other purposes. *Ordered*, that Messrs. Dorsey, Wilson and Hambleton be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion by Mr. Dorsey, leave given to bring in a bill entitled, an act to authorise and empower the levy courts of the several counties of this state, to remove the public records belonging to their respective counties. *Ordered*, that Messrs. Dorsey, Lecompte and T. N. Williams be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion by Mr. Young, *Ordered*, that a committee be appointed to examine into the propriety of further legislative provision for the speedy printing and distribution of the laws and votes and proceedings of this state, and that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Messrs. Young, Lecompte and Bowles were appointed a committee to carry into effect this order.

Mr. Dorsey delivers a petition from William Hamersly, of Charles county, praying that his surname and that of his son Francis may be changed; which was read and referred to Messrs. Dorsey, Stonestreet and Ford.

On motion by Mr. Wilson the following message was read;

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, May 18, 1813,

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We propose on Thursday next, if agreeable to your house, to go into a joint ballot for the election of a senator to represent this state in the senate of the United States, agreeably to the constitution of the United States, and the provisions of an act of Assembly passed at November session 1809, entitled, an act to fix the mode of electing senators to represent this state in the senate of the United States.

And the question was put that the house agree to the same.