

hausted, and the annihilation of the state governments must follow. We had an unquestionable right to expect that in a war declared by ourselves the nation would have promptly afforded to us what the constitution has so solemnly guaranteed to every member of the union. Instead of this however we have to deplore the ravages and distresses which have been produced in different parts of Maryland by the incursions of the enemy, and that its most exposed places have been left in a defenceless and unprotected situation.

Thus abandoned by the national authority, and without any well founded prospect of a speedy termination of the present disastrous war, it is for the wisdom of the legislature to devise the means of defence which upon any future occasion the state authorities shall afford. We must again be permitted to recommend to the legislature the organization of volunteer corps of infantry, (to be mounted,) and which would at this time be found the most efficient force for the kind of warfare in which we are engaged. In some places threatened with invasion, this species of force has been resorted to under an idea that it was authorised, and because found capable of affording the most service. The pay rolls of those men, when presented to us, we have been under the necessity of rejecting, because the legislature had refused to sanction their organization.

We would also call the attention of the legislature to those clauses of the militia law which establish the rules and articles of war for the government of the militia, while in actual service. We do not mean to question the propriety of such rigorous rules for the government of a regular army, nor do we mean to say that the militia, while in service, ought to be subject to no regulation, but we persuade ourselves that the legislature can devise rules for the government of the militia, without depriving them of any of the essential privileges of freemen, and subjecting them for offences undefined to the most cruel and opprobrious punishment.

We take the liberty of submitting to the legislature the propriety of adopting a system of general education. No subject upon which its wisdom can be employed is of more vital importance or can have a more imperative claim to its attention. Governments like those under which we have the happiness to live depend for their existence and prosperity upon the intelligence and virtue of its citizens, and to place the means of education within the reach of every description of the people, ought to be the primary concern as it is the unquestionable duty of the legislature of every free state. It is one among the many causes which we have for deploring the present war, that it diminishes those resources which ought to be employed in the education of our youth; we still, however, think, that if, in the opinion of the legislature, funds can be spared for the purpose, the work should be commenced, and a system matured for the establishment of schools in every part of the state.

The amount of claims for pay and rations of militia called into service in the course of the last summer, already sanctioned by this department, exceeds one hundred and six thousand dollars. A more particular account cannot at this time be given, as the board is still acting upon those claims, and many of them are yet to arrive.

For the purchase of arms and military stores, orders have been drawn to the amount of sixty-nine thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars, but a considerable sum is yet due on this account.

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

LEV. WINDER.

Which was read, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. J. H. Thomas delivers a petition from John Westfall, of Frederick county, praying that a law may pass authorising him to hold certain real property acquired before he was naturalized; which was read and referred to Messrs. J. H. Thomas, Jno. Thomas and Delaplane.

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

THURSDAY, December 9.

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

On motion by Mr. Maulsby, *Ordered*, that the committee of claims procure a copy of the Maryland Republican, and a copy of the Maryland Gazette, for each member of the legislature during the session.

Mr. John Thomas delivers a petition from Dennis Kennedy, of Frederick county, praying that a law may pass enabling him to hold certain real property acquired by him before naturalization. Which was read and referred to Messrs. John Thomas, John H. Thomas and Delaplane.

Mr. Forwood of Wm. delivers a petition from sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying that commissioners may be appointed to alter the road from Nathan Pyle's mill to the Peach Bottom road leading to Baltimore. and the Baltimore road to Stephen Rigdon's. Which was read and referred to Messrs. Forwood of Wm. Maulsby and Dallam.

Also a petition from sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying that a public road may be opened from the road leading from Peach Bottom to Baltimore to the public road at Nicholas D. M Comas's. Which was read and referred to Messrs. Forwood of Wm. Maulsby and Dallam.

Mr. Quinton delivers a petition from sundry inhabitants of Worcester county, praying that a law may pass imposing a fine upon any person who shall take away or break from their fastenings or moorings any vessel at the landing at George's Island. Which was read and referred to Messrs. Quinton, Handy and Williams.

Mr. Quinton delivers a petition from sundry inhabitants of New Town, and its vicinity, in Worcester county, stating that they would be greatly incommoded by the operation of an act of assembly authorising the levy court of Worcester county to sell the public warehouses and lots of ground in said county, and praying relief. Which was read and referred to Messrs. Quinton, Wilson and Handy.