

money annually in quarterly payments, equal to the half pay of an ensign; to Basil Lucas, Nehemiah Crawford, and John D. Jaquet sergeants in the revolutionary war, or to their respective orders, each a sum of money equal to the half pay of a sergeant; to John Williams a corporal in the revolutionary war, or to his order, a sum of money annually in quarterly payments, equal to the half pay of a corporal; to Nathaniel Downing, James Hogg, Josias Alvey, Tobias Reynolds, James Hewitt, John Cooper, Henry Harris, Wm. Niblet, George Clarke, Michael Kershner, Wm. Roberts, Benjamin Stevens, John White, Jesse Powers, Edward Jenkins, Joseph Clewly and John Bennett, privates in the revolutionary war, or to their respective orders, each a sum of money annually in quarterly payments, equal to the half pay of a private, as a further remuneration for the services rendered their country during the American war; *Provided always*, That the foregoing remuneration is in lieu of and not in addition to any sum of money which any of the aforementioned persons have heretofore been authorised to receive from the state of Maryland for the aforesaid services; *And provided also*, That if any of the herein named persons receive half pay from the United States, they shall not be entitled to receive the remuneration herein before provided for them.

The amendments proposed by the senate to the bill entitled, an act for the benefit of the heirs of Wm. Ringgold, of Kent county, were read the second time, assented to and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The report on the resolutions relative to the pay and rations of the governor while in actual service as commander in chief of the militia of this state, was read the second time and concurred in.

On motion by Mr. Lecompte the following preamble and resolutions were read:

*Whereas*, It is stated to this General Assembly, that a certain Gotleb Shober hath commenced an ejectment in the circuit court of the United States, for the district of Maryland, for the recovery of Nantukoke Manor in Dorchester county against the tenants thereof, to whom the said manor was sold by the state of Maryland, *And whereas* this assembly are informed that a commission hath been ordered by the said court for the examining witnesses who reside in the state of New-York, in behalf of the defendants; and that it will be necessary that their counsel should attend the execution of the said commission: *Therefore*,

*Resolved*, That the governor and council be, and they are hereby directed to employ counsel to attend the execution of said commission, and to defend the said suits.

*Resolved*, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to the order of the governor and council, a sum not exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, for effecting the purpose of the foregoing resolve.

Mr. John H. Thomas delivers a bill entitled, an act authorising the erection of a fire proof building for the safe keeping of the public land records of Frederick county; which was read.

On motion by Mr. Dorsey, the following resolution was read:

*Resolved*, That the treasurer of the western shore be, and he is hereby directed, to pay to Rezin Simpson, a sergeant in the revolutionary war, or to his order, a sum of money annually in quarterly payments, equal to the half pay of a sergeant; in lieu of the half pay of a private allowed to him by a resolution of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at November session 1812.

According to the order of the day, the house proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee on the preamble and resolutions relating to the qualifications and elections of delegates to the General Assembly, and on motion by Mr. Mason, the question put, that the following be inserted after the word "house" in the preamble of the report.

"That it is declared by our declaration of rights, "that all government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and instituted solely for the good of the whole. That the right of the people to participate in the legislature is the best security of liberty, and the foundation of all government." The constitution of Maryland, (that compact spoken of in the declaration of rights,) has secured to the people of Maryland that right to participate in the legislature, (so essential to liberty) by authorising them to elect, from among themselves, their own agents to represent them in this house, forming the most important branch of the legislature. But it is in vain that this right is secured to them by the constitution, if it is competent by an ordinary act of legislation, to take it from them directly or indirectly; as for example, to authorise the executive, who are not elected by the people, or immediately amenable to them, to appoint a levy court, still less responsible to the people, with power to that court to appoint election judges, still further removed from the controul of the people; and to give to these irresponsible judges of election, the power to make this constitutional right of suffrage depend upon their virtue, honesty, understanding, whim, caprice or opinion. Judges who may, and often do, want the confidence of the very people whose votes they take, and yet have the power, as we have recently seen, to suppress them. The right of suffrage being thus secured to the people by the constitution, it must be admitted, that no ordinary act of legislation can take it from them. It is competent by law to provide for the exercise of this right, but it is not competent by law to make the valid exercise of this right depend upon the act or omission of any person other than the voters themselves. Judges may be by law appointed to receive the votes, and with a view to facilitate the exercise of this right of suffrage, and secure to every man, the law may prescribe the manner in which the election shall be conducted; so that with a view to guard against corruption or mal conduct in the judges and clerks, certain oaths or office may be required of them, and if these officers dare to act without giving the pledge demanded, or without conforming to the forms by law prescribed to them, the law may punish them for such misconduct, but it cannot make the misconduct or omissions of the officers of its own creation, deprive the people of a right secured to them by the constitution.

The law of 1805, and the supplements thereto, were intended to secure this right of suffrage and not to destroy it, or put it in the power of any set of men to do so. If rightly construed, the laws are competent to secure these objects. These laws are declaratory, and upon no rule of fair construction