

company to open the navigation of Zachia Run, severally passed by that house Jan. 29, 1814; bill entitled, an additional supplement to an act entitled, an act to empower Rebecca Candler and John Candler administrators of Wm. Candler late sheriff and collector of Montgomery county to collect fees and county taxes put into his hands for collection during his life time, passed by the house Jan. 31, 1814; And the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Jan. 31, 1814.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

We propose with the concurrence of your honorable body to close the session this evening; and have nominated Messrs J. H. Thomas and Martin, a committee on the part of this house, to join the gentlemen to be nominated by the senate, to wait on his excellency the governor, to request his attendance in the senate chamber, at such hour as may be most convenient to your body, to sign and seal the laws according to the constitution of this state.

By order,

UPTON S. REID, Clk.

Which were severally read the first time and the bills ordered to lie on the table.

Also returns the bill entitled, an act relating to flour now lying within the city and port of Baltimore; the bill entitled, an act to ascertain the allowance to sheriffs for performing the duties required of them respecting elections; the bill entitled, a supplement to an act entitled, an act for the relief of the poor in Queen Ann's county; the bill entitled, a supplement to an act entitled, an act to authorise a lottery or lotteries to raise a sum of money to make a turnpike road from Frederick Town to Harper's ferry and for other purposes, passed at November session eighteen hundred and twelve, severally passed by that house Jan. 29, 1814; and the bill entitled, an act authorising persons to whom letters testamentary or of administration have been or may be granted in the District of Columbia to prosecute and recover claims in this state, passed by that house Jan. 31, 1814. Ordered to be engrossed. Also returns the bill entitled, an act entitled, a further supplement to an act entitled, an act to regulate and discipline the militia of this state, endorsed, "by the house of delegates Jan. 29, 1814; read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendments;" which were severally read, assented to and the bill ordered to be engrossed. Also returns the bill entitled, an act to provide for a session of the court of Appeals in the city of Baltimore to hear and decide causes carried up to that court from the courts in Baltimore county; the bill entitled, an act for the advancement of justice; the bill entitled, an act to declare in force an act entitled, an act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism, passed February session seventeen hundred and seventy seven, severally endorsed, "by the house of delegates January 29, 1814; read the second time and will not pass," and the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Jan. 29, 1814.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

The bill entitled, "an act to declare in force an act entitled, an act to punish certain crimes and misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism," which originated in the senate, has been negatived by this house, and is herewith returned.

The act which the bill proposes to enforce, was passed at the most critical and arduous period of the revolution, when this country was struggling for its independence, assailed by a powerful enemy without, and threatened within by traitorous combinations and conspiracies. This house can perceive nothing in the character of the present war, or in the existing circumstances of the nation which can render the obsolete provisions of the act intended to be revived either necessary or applicable. And on referring to the act it will be found, that there are extraordinary powers granted in it, which, however requisite for the exigencies of that time, might become susceptible of violent abuse for the worst and most tyrannical purposes. The twelfth section would give authority to the executive of the state on the first invasion of the enemy, to cause the arrest of all persons whom the governor and council should consider "dangerous to the safety of the state," and to keep them in confinement, at pleasure, during the invasion, without the chance of relief against oppression by the benefit of the habeas corpus act, which is to be absolutely suspended in relation to such persons as may be the objects of executive suspicion. Under the 16th section of the act, any citizen of another state travelling through this state, or any citizen of Maryland passing out of the state "without a pass signed by some member of congress, or a governor or judge," would be liable to be apprehended, to be carried before a justice of the peace, and if considered by the justice "a dangerous person" might be committed to the public jail of the county where he was seized.

However well founded our confidence may be in the public authorities of the state, we are not willing to trust the personal liberty and rights of the citizen entirely to their precarious will, when there is no apparent occasion for this violent stretch of power, and at a season when we are more especially bound to guard every constitutional privilege with increased vigilance against the encroachments of usurpation.

These are some of the objections which have induced us to reject the bill; there are others of a different nature which we feel it our duty to declare. The political divisions which have unfortunately separated the people of this country into two great contending parties, are known to have assumed every form of irritation which a zealous and unceasing contest could produce. Among a class of persons remarkably aware of the force and influence of names, it has become customary to stigmatize their political opponents with every opprobrious epithet which malevolence could suggest; and we have seen not only the sons and descendants of revolutionary patriots, but even surviving veterans of the war for independence, who fought and bled in the glorious struggle, now held up to popular odium, under an offensive term of reproach, which was once exclusively applied as a mark of infamy to those whose feelings during that struggle were enlisted against the cause of their country. We will not for a moment permit ourselves to suppose, that the senate could so far forget what is due to a sense of decency