

Mr. Gale, from the committee reported a bill, entitled, An act relating to the town clerk of Elkton, which was read the first, and by special order the second time, and laid on the table.

The bill for the benefit of the vestry of All Saint's church, in Frederick town, Frederick county, was read the second, and by special order the third time, and will pass.

The bill to erect a bridge over the Narrows at Kent Island, in Queen Anne's county, was read the second time, and on motion of Mr Carmichael, the question was put, Will the senate receive the following as amendments to said bill?

Amendments proposed. 1st. Strike out the 2d section and insert, "And be it enacted, That the commissioners aforesaid shall have full power and authority to ascertain and fix on the site of the said bridge, and if the site shall be in a place different from the place where the ferry boat now crosses, and it shall be necessary to make a new road, the commissioners shall have power to agree with the owner of the lands through which the said road shall pass, for so much land as may be necessary for said road, and also for the construction of the said bridge, and if the owner or owners cannot agree with the commissioners as to the price and value of the said lands, either party may apply to two of the justices of the peace for said county, who shall thereupon issue their warrant to the sheriff of Queen Anne's county, directing him to summon twenty good and sufficient jurors, to appear on a day and at a place limited and appointed in the said warrant, from whom shall be struck a jury of twelve, according to the laws of this state, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the value of the land fixed on and appropriated by the commissioners as aforesaid to the bridge and road, and shall return an inquisition thereof to the justices as aforesaid." 2d. Strike out the 3rd section and insert, "And be it enacted, That the said commissioners shall make a return of an abstract of the proceedings to Queen Anne's county court, who shall have power to inquire into the regularity of the proceedings in relation to the position of the said bridge and road, and if the same shall be ratified by the court, a record thereof shall be made by the clerk of Queen Anne's county in the records of the same, and the said land there appropriated shall be and remain for the use of the public roads in the said county." 3rd. At the end of the 4th section add, "and also so much as may be necessary to pay for the lands appropriated by them as aforesaid." 4th. Strike out the 6th section and insert. "And be it enacted, That when the said bridge shall be finished and completed, it shall be the duty of the commissioners aforesaid to return a certificate thereof to the levy court, who shall thereupon have the power to appoint a good and sufficient person to have the care of the said bridge, with such salary as they shall think proper and just, which appointment shall be annually made, and whose duty it shall be to receive from person or persons, non residents of said county, such tolls as the levy court shall fix and ascertain, and which they may change and alter at their discretion, and such tolls shall be applied by the levy court of the said county, who shall annually receive an account from the person so appointed of the tolls received to the use of the said county." 5th. Strike out the words "or otherwise injure" in the 2d line 7th section. Resolved in the affirmative.

The bill was then read a third time by special order, as amended, and the question put, Shall the said bill as amended pass? Determined in the affirmative.

The resolution in favour of Jehu Chandler, was read the second, and by special order the third time, and dissented from.

Mr. Maxcy moved the following message:

BY THE SENATE, January 21, 1820.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate having no constitutional power to make any amendment of resolutions making appropriations of the revenue of the state, we have rejected your resolution of January 6th in favour of Jehu Chandler, late printer to the state, because we cannot assent to the correctness of the principle involved in it, by which the adequacy of a salary for services long since rendered is to be re examined and discussed. Such a principle would open a door for an inquiry into the adequacy of the compensation allowed to every salary officer under our government since its commencement.

We are of opinion however, that a part of the claim of said Chandler against the state is reasonable and just, though we cannot assent to the payment of it in the shape of salary.

After the said Chandler was appointed printer to the state in the year 1811, and had procured materials and workmen for the execution of his duties, the performance of them was rendered more burthensome and expensive by resolution No. 64, passed at the session of that year. In consequence of this an increased compensation was deemed reasonable and just by the house of delegates, as appears from a report on the 28th December of a committee to whom the matter had been referred, but as the report came before them at a late period of the session, and as data for correct estimates were not at hand, it was on the 7th January, referred to the next general assembly. Under these circumstances the senate are of opinion, that the said Chandler is entitled to additional compensation for printing the laws and votes and proceedings of the session of 1812, because, as the house of delegates had, at the previous session, decided that an increase of compensation for the performance of the same duties in 1811, was right and just, the said Chandler, under the reasonable expectation thereof, had procured materials, and began to print the laws and votes and proceedings, before any decision had been made as to the remuneration of his services for 1811.

At the session of 1812, to which the house of delegates of the year preceding had referred the subject of the increase of compensation to the printer, acknowledged to be just for 1811, the matter was referred to a committee, who also reported in favour of additional remuneration, but referred the amount to the decision of the executive. When the civil list was acted on, the salary of the printer was fixed as usual at \$1200 per annum. At the session of 1811, an increase of salary was acknowledged to be just, in consequence of an increase of duties after the office had been accepted, but the amount of it was referred to the next general assembly for want of the necessary data to guide their decision, and the salary, as usual, was fixed in the civil list at \$1200. The fixing of the salary at \$1200 in 1812, no more precluded the expectation of an increased compensation for 1813, than the fixing of it at the same amount in 1811 precluded the expectation of an increased compensation for 1812, because in both years the necessary data were not in the possession of the house of delegates, at the time of acting on the civil list. The expectation of an increased compensation, when the printer began the execution of his duties in 1813, was even