

NEGATIVE.

Messrs. Cresap, Harper, Howard, Hughlett, Maxcy, Parnham, Taney and West—8.

Determined in the negative, and the bill sent to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers a bill, entitled, An act to make public certain streets in the city of Annapolis; a bill, entitled, A further supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the preservation of the breed of fish; a bill, entitled, An additional 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; a bill, entitled, An act authorising Henry E. Colman to remove certain negroes from the state of Louisiana into this state; a bill, entitled, An act to alter the time of holding the county court of Dorchester county; a bill, entitled, An act to authorise the orphans court of Charles county to take the bond of George H. Spalding, sheriff of Charles county; a bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of Horatio M. Eldery and George Forbes, of Charles county; and the following resolution:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, February 7, 1820.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby authorised and directed, to release William Ritchie and Ezra Mantz, administrators of William Ritchie, late clerk of Frederick county, from the payment of interest on the sums due from the said William Ritchie to this state, at the time of his death, provided they shall fully pay the principal of the debts so due by the first day of May next.

By order,

J. BREWER, CLK.

Which was read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Howard, the bill, entitled, An additional 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, was referred to a special committee. Ordered, That Messrs. Taney, Carmichael and Maxcy, be the said committee.

On motion of Mr. Parnham, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act relating to the place of holding elections in the second election district in Charles county. Ordered, That Messrs. Parnham, West and Hughlett, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The bill to prohibit the pernicious practice of cock fighting and gaming within this state, and for other purposes, was read the second time and laid on the table.

Mr. Gale and Mr. Emerson appeared in the senate.

Mr. Maxcy from the committee to whom was referred so much of the governor's message as relates to education and public instruction submitted the following report:

That at an early period after the settlement of the state, the promotion of useful learning was deemed an object highly worthy of the attention of the legislature. At a session of assembly, at the city of St. Mary's, in the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two, an act was passed for its encouragement. In sixteen hundred and ninety-six, the Free School of King William was established at Annapolis, and in seventeen hundred and twenty-three a school was erected in each of the twelve counties, into which the state was then divided, and the funds provided by previous acts for the support of county schools were distributed equally amongst them. By various other acts, schools have been established in each of the seven counties subsequently formed, and most of them have enjoyed at different times, a portion of legislative favour and encouragement.

Many of these schools are now in a flourishing condition. In some instances it has been found expedient to unite the schools of two or more adjacent counties, their revenue derived from the public bounty and private patronage being insufficient for their separate support. But the funds of some, your committee regret to say, have been diverted from their original object, and applied to purposes entirely foreign to the education of youth, and the advancement of useful knowledge.

In most of these schools, besides reading, writing and common arithmetic, are taught English grammar, geography, the higher branches of arithmetic, and the latin and greek languages. With moderate additional assistance from the state, these schools might be made highly respectable academies, or seminaries of learning of the second grade, and, with the addition of one or two others, conveniently located and properly endowed, would form a sufficient number of institutions of this class for the accommodation of the state.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that in seventeen hundred and eighty-two, a College or place of universal learning was established on the eastern shore, under the name of the Washington College; and in the year seventeen hundred and eighty four, another, under the name of St. John's College, was established on the western shore. Both were liberally endowed by the general assembly, and united under the name of The University of Maryland. While they continued to enjoy the patronage of the state, they were flourishing and highly respectable. They have been particularly fortunate, in sending forth into the world, many of our most virtuous, able and celebrated men, who have been in their various stations at once the ornaments and supports of the state. The funds, however, were many years since withdrawn from these institutions, which afterwards languished for a while for want of support, and at length settled down from seminaries of the first class to respectable academies, or schools of the second grade. Our youths of talent, who have the means of defraying the expense, are now obliged to resort to other states for the completion of their education; while, such as cannot afford it, whatever may be their natural endowments, are compelled to be satisfied with the limited advantages afforded by our grammar schools. While many, therefore, of our most promising youths, for the want of means, are obliged to forego the benefit of a complete course of collegiate study, others, more favoured by fortune, carry more wealth out of Maryland, for the purposes of education in other states, than would be necessary for the most liberal endowment of a university upon the largest scale, which would be accessible to treble their numbers. It is therefore manifest, that while this parsimony in relation to our colleges is totally distinct from true economy, it has diminished throughout our counties, in a lamentable degree, the number of those who would otherwise have been qualified, by their knowledge, their talents and their virtue, to be the intelligent and trust-worthy guardians of the people's rights.

While for these reasons therefore, your committee look back with deep regret upon the policy, that has been pursued in relation to our colleges, they lament it still more on other accounts. It has rendered a system of general education of the people in a great measure impracticable. It has injured, it is true,