

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 1823.

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

The bill, entitled, An act authorising the levy courts of Anne-Arundel and Prince George's counties to levy a sum of money for building a bridge over Patuxent river at Queen-Anne; the bill authorising Henry Vernon Somerville to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland; and the bill to authorise William Knight, of Kent county, to import and bring into this state certain negroes therein mentioned, were returned to the house of delegates, with the message relative to the appointment of a joint committee to examine the state of the government house.

The bill to enlarge the powers of the trustees of the poor of Charles county; the bill to repeal an act to encourage the destruction of crows in Kent county, passed at December session, eighteen hundred and twenty-one, chapter eleven; the bill, entitled, An act to incorporate the First Hager's-Town Hose Company; were read the second time and laid on the table.

Mr. Price from the committee, to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens of Washington county, praying an act of incorporation under the name of the "Benevolent Society of the United Brethren in Christ," reported a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a Benevolent Society in Hager's-Town; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. M'Kim from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the relief of Richard Bennett Mitchell, of the city of Baltimore, reported, that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion that the said bill ought to pass. The bill was then read a third time, passed, and sent to the house of delegates.

The bill to make valid the proceedings of the levy court of Allegany county, was read a third time, amended, passed, and returned to the house of delegates.

On motion by Mr. Miller, the bill, entitled, An act to alter and amend the constitution of this state, so that the governor may be elected by the people, was made the order of the day for the 9th instant.

Mr. Bowie moved to amend the proceedings of yesterday, by striking out the words "ordered to be printed," as applying to the communication received from the executive, enclosing the report of the commissioners appointed to view the Potomac river and its branches, and insert, "ordered to lie on the table." And the question was put and determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Chambers moved that the said communication and report, should be forwarded to the house of delegates, and the question was put, and determined in the affirmative, and it was sent to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Elizabeth Leech, of St. Mary's county; a bill, entitled, An act for the relief Pricilla Grover, and her two idiot sons, of Calvert county; and a bill, entitled, An act to alter and change the name of James Dunbar, of Kent county, to that of James Templeton Dunbar; which were read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Johnson, the bill, entitled, An act to alter and change such parts of the constitution and form of government of this state as require the officers thereof to subscribe a declaration of belief in the christian religion, made the order of the day for the 10th inst. was made the order of the day for the 7th inst.

Mr. Miller from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the relief of the afflicted child of William Mattingly, junior, of St. Mary's county, reported the same with sundry amendments; which amendments were read and assented to, and the bill being read a third time, the question was put, "shall the bill as amended pass?" Determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Johnson from the committee delivered the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the benefit of the trustees of Garrison Forrest Academy, and the Franklin Academy, in Baltimore county, beg leave to report, that they have given the same an attentive consideration, and are of opinion that it ought to be rejected.

By the original act, a donation of eight hundred dollars was given by the state to the Garrison Forrest Academy, and to the Franklin Academy. Both these institutions, with the aid of this donation, are now, and have been for some time past, in a highly prosperous condition. The buildings of the Garrison Forrest Academy have, since this donation was granted, been enlarged; the number of its scholars increased, and its usefulness considerably extended; nearly the same may be said of the other academy. The trustees of both have, in the faith of this donation, contracted obligations that are yet in force. To deprive them of any part of this gift, would seem to be a violation of public faith. The committee think nothing can be more obvious, than that the welfare of such institutions as these, depends almost entirely on the certainty with which their funds are received. Competent teachers will not engage themselves, if their salaries are likely to be precarious. This donation, as now divided, is not too much for either of the academies to which it is given. To take any part of it from either, and give it to one of the same character, would render it comparatively useless. It would establish a precedent, that in the opinion of the committee, would be highly injurious to every academy in the state, to whom donations are given. The committee in making this report, do not wish to be considered as at all hostile to the St. James' academy. They would, if they had the power so to do, extend to every such institution the patronage of the state. A government founded on the will of the people, to be prosperous, requires the people to be enlightened. This, judging from experience can only be effected, in the estimation of your committee, by means of schools and academies.

Their opposition therefore, to the bill referred to them, is owing to a conviction, that the fund now given to the academies in Baltimore county, is too small to admit of a further division.