

Mr. Bowie submitted the following preamble and resolutions; which were read, and made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The legislature of Maryland view with concern the attempt now making at Washington to control the election of president and vice president of the United States, by means of a congressional caucus.

The constitution of the United States has assigned to Congress certain rights and duties in regard to that election, concerning the performance of which, at the proper time and in the proper place, it is unwise and injudicious for members of Congress previously to pledge or commit themselves.

To the people the same instrument has assigned other rights and duties, which the Legislature of Maryland believe they are perfectly competent to perform without the corrective interposition of any other tribunal, and more especially of that one, which, of all others, should be most free from the influence of preconcerted arrangements.

When the people shall have failed to make the election, then, and not till then, will the period arrive for the members of Congress, acting as the representatives of the people of the United States to decide on the qualifications and merits of the respective candidates.

The legislature of Maryland are not disposed to deny that when the constitution *is in danger* when an administration approved by a majority of the people, when any principle of government essential to its prosperity and happiness, is likely to be defeated by a party in opposition, entertaining different views, and avowing hostile sentiments, then very properly resort may be had to this expedient to produce union of sentiment and concert of action among the friends of the government.

A nation may be saved from danger and destruction by this remedy; but in times of public peace and tranquility, when nothing disturbs the healthful state of the body politic, the people calm, dispassionate and sovereign, should not be interrupted in the pursuit of their legitimate purposes.

Therefore, *Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That they disapprove of, and will discountenance any Congressional caucus nomination at this time of President and Vice President of the United States, and that the Senators and Representatives of this state in Congress, be requested to use their influence to prevent the same.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this preamble and resolution be forthwith transmitted by his Excellency the Governor, to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The senate adjourned until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, December 10, 1823.

The senate met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Bowie and Mr. Johnson. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Dickinson submitted the following resolution; which was read and assented to: Resolved, that the committees of the senate be appointed by the president, unless specially ordered otherwise by the senate.

The bill to authorise Walker K. Armstead, of Prince George's county, to remove negro Cyrus into this state, was read a second and third time by special order, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered the following message; which was read.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Dec. 10, 1823.

*Gentlemen of the Senate*—We have received your message proposing a committee of conference for the purpose of devising some plan for printing the daily journal of both houses, and have appointed Messrs. Semmes, Hopper and Carroll to meet the gentlemen named by you.

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Clk.

Also a bill entitled, an act to authorise John C. Wederstrandt to remove certain negroes into this state; and a bill entitled, an act to authorise Isaac Rawlings of the state of Tennessee, to remove into this state certain negro slaves; which were severally read the first time and referred to Messrs. Quenton, Kent and Bowie. Also a bill entitled, an act to authorise the levy court of Caroline county to levy on the assessable property of said county the sums of money therein mentioned; which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Orrell, Quenton and Kent. Also a bill entitled, an act for the benefit of Benjamin M'Creery and John Watkins, of Harford county; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion, Mr. Claude was appointed one of the committee on the part of the senate, to devise some plan for printing the daily journal of both houses, in the place of Mr. Bowie absent.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill entitled, an act for the relief of Elizabeth Harding, of the city of Baltimore; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Winder, leave was given to bring in a bill to be entitled, a supplement to the act against excessive usury, and it was ordered that Messrs. Winder, Orrell and Cockey, should be a committee to prepare and report the same.

Mr. Orrell from the committee reported a bill entitled, an act to alter the time of the meeting of the general assembly of this state and for other purposes; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

The senate adjourned until to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY, December 11, 1823.

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

The further supplement to the act for the distribution of a certain fund to establish free