

Mr. Chambers from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the benefit of Elizabeth Harding, of the city of Baltimore, reported the same with the following amendments:

Amendments proposed.—Strike out all that follows after the word "that," in the first line of the second section to the word "repealed," in the 6th line of the same section inclusive, and insert "the said William Harding shall, from the passage of this act, be, and he is hereby altogether deprived of all and every interest, authority, power and controul in, over and to the person of Elizabeth Harding his wife, as fully as if she had never been married." Strike out the word "such" in the 9th line of the same section and insert the words "species of." Strike out the word "such" in the 4th line of the "proviso."

Which amendments were read and assented to, and the bill being read as amended a second, and by special order a third time, will pass.

Mr. Chambers from the committee to whom was referred the bill to divorce Ellender Gray and her husband, of Anne Arundel county, reported the same with the following amendments:

Amenements proposed.—Add as an additional section the following: "And be it enacted, that the said Ellender Gray shall be, and she is hereby declared capable to have, hold, take, receive, sue for, and recover, by compromise, suit or suits in law or equity, property of any kind whatever, real, personal or mixed, in as full and ample a manner as if she were a feme sole, and to use and enjoy or dispose of the same at her will and pleasure and may in her own name sue and be sued as if she were a feme sole."

Which amendments were read assented to, and the bill being read as amended a second, and by special order a third time, will pass.

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

FRIDAY, February 6, 1824.

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

The resolution relative to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, was read a third time, assented to and returned to the house of delegates.

Mr. Chambers delivered the following report; which was read and concurred in.

The committee of conferrance to whom was referred the bill entitled, an act to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state, and the memorial of the mayor and city council of Baltimore, beg leave to report—That it appears to your committee that the act of Congress of 1813, chapter 565, by which a direct tax was provided, assumed a ratio of distribution amongst the different counties of this state, from materials which although the most satisfactory then to be obtained, did not afford the possibility of arriving at a result perfectly accurate.

Congress aware of the necessity of a more exact scale of distribution, provided by the act of 1815, for an assessment throughout the state, and the ratio of distribution was then made to conform to this corrected standard.

The act of 1821, providing a revenue for the support of government, seems to have assumed the ratio of the act of congress of 1813, as the correct standard. The act of 1822, providing a revenue for the support of government assumed the ratio on which the act of the preceding year had been passed. No objection having been suggested to the propositions thus assumed, the act of the present session has pursued the same ratio.

The committee are of opinion that the assessment made in pursuance of the act of Congress of 1815, having been made at a period when from the peculiar circumstances and situation of the country, the prices of property were such as could not now be realised, and that in the mutations which have since occasioned the declension of property, has been quite unequal in different parts of the state, cannot now be relied upon as exhibiting a scale of distribution more satisfactory or equitable than the one assumed in 1813. They recommend that a law be passed providing for a general assessment through the state, to be made upon some established and uniform principle, by which an accurate estimate may in future be made; but as the necessities of the state do not permit delay, the committee have from the result of their enquiries, and information on the subject, concluded upon a ratio for the supplies of the present year, which is as follows:

Saint Mary's county \$1686; Kent 1799; Anne Arundel 4185; Calvert 1028; Charles 2876; Baltimore 15309; Talbot 1766; Somerset 2364; Dorchester 2351; Cecil 2539; Prince George's 3281; Queen Ann's 2402; Worcester 2095; Frederick 6797; Harford 2283; Caroline 960; Washington 3644; Montgomery 2180; Allegany 1012. They therefore recommend that the bill now before them, be returned to the house of delegates with a view to have the same corrected.

The bill to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state, was read a second, and by special order a third time, rejected, and returned to the house of delegates. The bill for the relief of Elizabeth Harding, of the city of Baltimore. The bill to divorce Ellender Gray and her husband, of Anne Arundel county, and the bill for the completion of certain records of the orphans' court of Somerset county, were returned to the house of delegates.

The preamble and resolutions relative to the mode of electing the president and vice president of the United States, was read a second time, and laid on the table.

The senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Orrell in the chair, on the bill to abolish the present religious test required by the constitution and form of government of this state; and after some time the committee rose, and reported the bill without amendment. The bill was then read a second time, and on motion the question was put, "will the senate receive the following as an amendment:—strike out the words "abolish the present," in the title, and