

Also, a resolution in favor of Benjamin G. Jones, which was read the first time and laid on the table; also, a bill entitled, an act to lay out and make public a road leading from Edward C. Edelin's gate to Peter D. Hatton's mill in Charles county; a bill appointing commissioners to lay out and open a road in Anne Arundel county; a bill entitled, an act authorising certain persons therein mentioned, to purchase a lot of ground for the purpose of erecting thereon a Methodist church in Charles county; a further additional supplement to the act entitled, an act to alter and change the name of Elizabethtown in Washington county to Hagerstown, and to incorporate the same; a bill entitled, an act to prevent the destruction of Sheep in Cecil county; and a bill entitled, an additional supplement to an act for the relief of John Missler and David Rinehart, trustees of James Farquhar, of Frederick county, passed November session, eighteen hundred and twelve; which were severally read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Johnson offered the following message, which was read, assented to and sent to the house of delegates:—

BY THE SENATE, Feb. 14, 1824.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,*—The senate concur in your proposal that a committee of conference be appointed to take into consideration the Baltimore canal bill, and have appointed Messrs. Johnson, Cockey and Chambers, to constitute this committee on the part of the senate.

By order,

WM. KILTY, Ck.

Mr. Johnson offered the following resolution, which was read, assented to and sent to the house of delegates:—

Resolved, That the clerks of the courts of appeals, the register in chancery, the clerks of the several county courts, the clerk of Baltimore city court, and the registers of wills of the several counties in this state be, and they are hereby required to report on oath to the general assembly at its next session, what has been the annual amount of the fees of their respective offices for the last five years, what the amount of such fees actually received by them in each of the said five years, and what the annual amount of the expenses of their said offices, during the same period, and whether such expenses could without public inconvenience have been diminished.

Mr. Brownly, from the committee to whom was referred the bill entitled, a supplement to an act entitled, an act for altering and amending the road from Baltimore city to Belle Air in Harford county, report that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion that it ought to pass. The bill was then read a second and by special order a third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

The additional supplement to the act to authorise a lottery or lotteries to raise a sum of money for the purpose of repairing and raising a fund for the use of Washington College, was read a second and third time by special order, passed and sent to the house of delegates.

Mr. Chambers delivered the following report, which was read:—

The joint committee to whom was referred the consideration of the propriety of revising and publishing the constitution, beg leave to report, that they have considered the subject and after the most mature reflection, find themselves compelled to doubt the policy of introducing the several alterations suggested in the bills referred to them. The committee are deeply sensible of the danger of frequent changes in the constitution for trivial causes, and that whatever speculative difficulties may be from time to time imputed to its existing provisions, yet it is always to be remembered that the utility of the projected improvements can be only hypothetical. In the reflection which the committee have been called on to indulge on this occasion, a majority of them have not been satisfied that the interest or the inclination of the people of the state require any change in the present constitution, except so far as respects the executive department of the government.

The committee believe that experience has sanctioned the opinion that to render this department as useful and efficient as it ought to be, it is necessary that the governor should be elected for three years, and not be eligible for the three succeeding years, that he should have the appointment of the officers of the state, subject to the confirmation of the senate, and should receive a salary proportioned to the increased duties and responsibility of the office.

This change will necessarily require that the council shall be abolished and that a secretary to be appointed by the governor shall be provided for. The committee believe that the contemplated alteration will give existence to an executive department which, without an increase of cost to the state, will be efficient, useful and responsible.

The committee beg leave further to report, that the constitution with the several alterations previously made thereto were published in 1818, with the laws of Maryland, edited by the late chancellor Kilty and others, and that the few alterations since made are readily to be ascertained on reference to our statute books. They are therefore of opinion that it is unnecessary at this time to adopt any measures for the publication of the constitution with the amendments thereto.

By order,

T. W. LOOCKERMAN, Com. Ck.

Mr. Johnson, from the committee to whom was referred the bill for the relief of Christopher Rader, of Frederick county, reported that the committee had had the same under consideration and were of opinion that it ought to pass. The bill was then read a second, and by special order a third time, passed and returned to the house of delegates.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill entitled an act for the support of the government of this state, which was read the first time and laid on the table; also, a resolution in favor of John Jack, of Washington county; a resolution in favor of James Fling, of Montgomery; a resolution in favor of Ezekiel Thomason, of Worcester county; a resolution in favor of Samuel Davis and William Gudgeon, of Kent county; a resolution in favor of Margaret Hamilton, of the city of Baltimore; a resolution in favor of Mary Coyn, of Harford county; a resolution in