

“When they shall make their selection as hereinbefore directed by lot.”

Which amendments were read and assented to.

The bill having been read a third time as amended, the question was put, Shall the bill as amended pass? Determined in the affirmative.

Mr. Heath then offered the following message; which was read the first time.

By the Senate, February 24, 1831.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate have received your message, and in compliance with your request have re-considered the bill, entitled; An act to distribute the school funds of Montgomery county, and have amended and passed it. The senate feel anxious to diffuse the blessings of education as generally as possible throughout the community, and solicitous to carry into effect the enlightened and just policy of the legislature upon this subject, it would be most gratifying to every lover of his country to witness the establishment of schools throughout every district of the state, so that the children of the indigent might participate in their advantages—that the “growing up population” might be enlightened—made acquainted with their own importance, and their rights in the community of which they are to become useful members. Believing that the diffusion of light and knowledge will promote the public happiness, and render durable the free institutions of the country, the senate regret the necessity that existed for the rejection of the bill referred to. The senate rejected the bill, as your honourable body is well aware, from no hostility to the general object—on the contrary many bills upon this subject had been passed, and it is believed not an instance has occurred of the rejection of such a bill by the senate containing proper provisions.

The senate rejected the bill in question because its provisions were most unusual, and in the opinion of the senate in conflict with the provisions of the general acts of the legislature for the promotion of education. The state, in the appropriation of large funds for the support of public schools, designed that the diffusion of knowledge should be general—that the advantages of the system should be extended to all—that the indigent in every part of the state should participate in these advantages—the children of the indigent in every part of the state being equally dear to her, she contemplated no invidious distinctions in the distribution of the favour. The bill, if rightly understood, adopted a dif-