

for the safety of the state, and ought not to be continued after the necessity ceases. The great distinguishing characteristic between a freeman and a slave, is the right of voting for delegates, to make laws affecting liberty and life. We believe there are thousands of our people, cut off from the right of citizenship by the law, which we propose to repeal; a law made amidst the tumult and the rage of war. Among those that are proscribed, are numbers of quakers and methodists, a people inoffensive in their manners, exemplary in their conduct, and useful to the state from their industry. We cannot believe, that the state can be in any the least possible danger from restoring all the nonjurors to the capacity to hold offices, and the right of suffrage. If the senate will point out any of the nonjurors (in this time of peace and safety) as proper objects for the resentment of the legislature, this house will except them from the benefit of the act; but we do not think it wise or just to punish numbers for the incorrigible conduct of a few. We expected that the moderation, liberality and tenderness, proposed to be shewn to these people, would have reconciled and attached them to our government, and induced them not to leave it, to seek another, in which they would enjoy all the rights of freemen. If your honours are averse from enabling the nonjurors to hold offices in government, and will consent to restore them the privilege of suffrage at elections, we will agree to pass the law with such amendment. We have returned the bill, to afford the senate an opportunity of reconsidering the subject, and of concurring in the measure, or assigning their reasons for their dissent, and the motives which determine them to continue a discrimination among our citizens, in our opinion very odious in itself, and wholly unnecessary since the peace, and the firm establishment of our government.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, and the question put, That the same be assented to? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Taney appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Members	De Butts,	Carroll,	John Dashiell,	Gantt,	Quynn,	Shriver,
	Plowden,	Grahame,	Waters,	Digges,	Townshend,	Hardcastle,
	Graves,	Ware,	Elzey,	Johnson,	Chaille,	Downes,
	B. Worthington,	Stevenson,	Job,	Seney,	Joseph Dashiell,	M'Mecher.
	N. Worthington,	Hindman,	Bowie.	Chafe,		

N E G A T I V E.

Members	Taney,	Roberts,	Bravard,	Love,	Steret,	Swingle,
	Dent,	Steel,	Beatty,	Bond,	Stull,	Oncair,
	Ridgely of Wm. Miller,		Norris,	Wheeler,	Cellars,	Edwards.
	Harris,					

So it was resolved in the affirmative.

Sent to the senate by Mr. Bowie.

The engrossed bill No. 56 was read and assented to, and sent to the senate, with the paper bill thereof, by Mr. Quynn.

The following message being prepared, was sent to the senate by Mr. Johnson.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 16, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE have appointed Mr. Hindman, Mr. Seney, and Mr. Job, to join the members nominated by your house to examine the ballot boxes.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

The house proceeded to ballot for four commissioners, to join the commissioners from Virginia (respecting the navigation of the river Patowmack), and the ballots being deposited in the ballot box, the gentlemen named to strike retired, and after some time returned and reported, that it appeared, that Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chafe, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esquires, had a majority of votes. Whereupon,

RESOLVED, That Thomas Johnson, Thomas Stone, Samuel Chafe, and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Esquires, be, and they are hereby declared to be, commissioners to join the commissioners of Virginia, respecting the navigation of the river Patowmack.

The amendments to the bill to provide a fund for the relief of the widows and children of the clergy of the protestant episcopal church, were read the first and second time, and the following message was prepared, and sent to the senate, with the said bill, by Mr. Downes.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, JANUARY 16, 1785.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOURS,

WE agree to all your amendments to the bill to provide a fund for the relief of the widows and children of the clergy of the protestant episcopal church, with the following additions or alterations, to wit. In the 6th line of the 1st page, instead of "ministers of the" say "clergy of the." In the 11th line of the same page strike out "being" and insert "are," and in the 7th line from the bottom of the same page strike out "William Hanna." In the 5th line from the bottom of the same page, after the word "junior" strike all out to the word "state" inclusive in the 6th line of the 2d page. In the 7th line of the 2d page, after the word "successors" insert "to be chosen according to this act." In the 2d line from the bottom of the 3d page, after the word "best" add "and also to elect such persons as they may think proper themselves, from time to time, for perpetuating this corporation." In the 6th line of the 4th page, after the word "clergymen"