

would then permissively convey information to their constituents, which the dignity and security of the body cannot allow, whilst their debates, secluded from public inspection, admit of no impartial testimony.

The duration of the time for which they are elected, and the different periods at which their offices expire, render that body in effect permanent. They admit no constitutional mode by which an entire change could be effected, should ever corruption pervade the mass or taint their proceedings, and they afford but few opportunities of withdrawing confidence once improperly reposed in individual members. These combined considerations also furnish additional and powerful motives for admitting their constituents to a knowledge of their deliberations, and to a minute inspection of their general and individual conduct, and we hold it no sound argument that the admission could extend only to the inhabitants of the seat of their deliberations. When the curtain is withdrawn, any audience will command respect from those who act on the theatre of public life, and sentiments, that would be avowed under the veil of privacy, would then shrink from inspection.

But we learn from experience, that the calls of public and private business constantly draw well-informed citizens from all parts of the union to the seat of government; these continually going and returning, would disseminate the principles of their deliberations; but above all, the press already conveys a general history of the debates of the representative branch of government, which, if not accurate, may at all times be corrected by the publications of members misrepresented, and furnishes all parts of the confederacy with an ample idea of the capacity and conduct of their immediate representatives. The same effects may be reasonably expected from the publication of the debates of that body; and although they might be protracted to a greater length, of which we doubt, as the vanity of appearing conspicuous will not probably operate so strongly on men of riper years, and as the order enforced by inspection would exclude lengthy conversations; yet, as this branch are obliged to continue in session during the whole time occupied by the deliberations of the other, it is reasonable to conclude, that the greater number of that body, and consequently of persons who engage in debate, will consume more time than could be compensated by the greater variety of senatorial duties, if such do exist.

But whatever may have been the original policy or impolicy of the measure, it has now assumed a more serious aspect. The refusal of that honourable body to comply with the urgent desires of so respectable a proportion of their constituents, unopposed by the declared approbation of their conduct by any part of the union, can hardly, we think, be justified by any refinement of theory. If the neglect to open their doors created a jealousy, which has hitherto worn the face of remonstrance, or discovered itself in instructions, requiring that their legislative deliberations should be public, their absolute refusal to comply, seems calculated to inspire suspicion; confidence leaves the bosom that suspicion once enters, and rarely returns. We, your immediate constituents, satisfied that this free communication of our sentiments will produce the desired effect, assure you, that we deem a compliance with the wishes expressed from the various parts of the union, that their doors should be open whilst sitting in their legislative capacity, as essential to the preservation of that entire confidence which the whole union ought to repose in that honourable body.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read, and the question put, That the house agree thereto? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Chesley, appeared as follow:

| A F F I R M A T I V E.                 |                 |               |                 |             |             |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thomas,                                | Chapman,        | Eccleston,    | Quynn,          | Beatty,     | Ott,        |
| Hopewell,                              | Ridgely, of Wm. | Miller,       | Seely,          | Burkhart,   | Swearingen, |
| Comegys,                               | Gough,          | R. Bond,      | Wright,         | Prall,      | Oncale,     |
| N. Worthington,                        | Cockey,         | Hollingworth, | O'Bryon,        | Wilson,     | Deakins,    |
| Mercer,                                | Waggaman,       | Oldham,       | Barnes,         | Douglass,   | Crelap,     |
| Wilkinson,                             | Denwood,        | T. Marshall,  | Dennis,         | Loockerman, | Tomlinson,  |
| Chesley,                               | Lecompte,       | Clark,        | Holland,        | Whitely,    | Jacob.      |
| Craig,                                 | Frazier,        | T. Gantt,     | J. P. Marshall, |             | 46.         |
| N E G A T I V E.                       |                 |               |                 |             |             |
| Messieurs Duvall,                      |                 |               | Key.            |             |             |
| So it was resolved in the affirmative. |                 |               |                 |             |             |

Sent to the senate by the clerk.

On motion, ORDERED, That the committee appointed to bring in a supplement to the act for regulating the time, places and manner, of holding elections for delegates to represent this state in the congress of the United States, and for other purposes, be discharged, and that this house will, on Saturday next, resolve into a committee of the whole, to take the subject matter thereof into consideration.

Mr. Wright has leave of absence, to take place on Monday next.

Mr. Wright, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act respecting the equity jurisdiction of the county courts; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. N. Worthington, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a report from the committee appointed to inquire what laws have or will expire during this session; which was read.

On motion, the question was put, That leave be given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to alter the second, fifteenth and twenty-sixth sections of the constitution of this state, and to disqualify members of congress from holding a seat in the legislature or executive of this state? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Lecompte, appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A -