

vernment, and its wife, firm and provident administration. We regret with you that our chief magistrate is soon to quit that exalted station, in discharging the duties of which he has gained the confidence, esteem and love, and has justly merited the gratitude, of the American people.

Although we regret his intended retirement from public to private life, we cannot but acknowledge the reasonableness of the motives assigned for that determination in his late address to the people of the United States; an address which no one of sense and feeling, no friend to his country, or to the human race, can read unmoved, at once admiring the wisdom of its precepts, and revering and loving the memory of the man. May that beneficent Providence which has blessed this country with an eight years administration of a magistrate thus enlightened, so disinterested and patriotic, inspire his successor with the same rectitude, firmness and wisdom. May the animosity of parties never agitate and distract the public councils; may public opinion, thoroughly matured, and divested of all passionate attachments and antipathies to particular nations, thoroughly matured, and divested the proceedings of our representatives, should the intrigues of foreign emissaries, local and contracted views, unfounded jealousy or partialities, at any time hereafter delay or obstruct the adoption of measures tending to the public good.

We perfectly coincide, Sir, with you in opinion, that the making of good roads, and removing obstructions in rivers to navigation, so as to facilitate the transportation of produce and merchandise, are objects well deserving legislative attention and aid. We flatter ourselves that the works on the Patowmack, which you inform us will probably be completed in twelve months, will produce the contemplated advantages, and prove, in process of time, a considerable source of revenue to the state. We are satisfied equal emoluments will arise from rendering the Susquehanna navigable into the bay of Chesapeake. It is expected that an application on this subject will be made to this assembly by the proprietors of the canal; when made, it will receive that due consideration which its importance truly merits.

Your humane attention to persons confined for debt is highly commendable; we mean not to censure or justify the established law and practice of imprisonment in that case, but we reprobate the confinement of prisoners in private gaols, a practice so injurious to their health and morals should be discountenanced by the legislature; to prevent the continuance of this abuse, some plan may probably be adopted during the present session for erecting, where necessary, commodious gaols, in healthy situations, for the reception of prisoners.

In a free country, such as this really is, (and we fervently pray it may ever remain so,) its legislators, no doubt, will endeavour to promote morality and knowledge, the surest supports of liberty. Seminaries of learning, under good regulations, contribute, we admit, to the diffusion of knowledge, which is generally attended by virtue; the union of both forms the perfect citizen. The best informed mind will soonest discern the true interest of the country; its energies can best display that interest, and persuade its adoption; and the virtuous citizen, from duty and habit accustomed to self denials, will more readily sacrifice the feelings and passions of the individual, when opposed to the welfare of the whole.

The foregoing, and the other subjects mentioned in your excellency's address, will be duly attended to, and when discussed they will meet, we trust, with that decision which the revenues of the state, the existing circumstances of the country, and public utility, may prescribe.

We give full credence to the assertion, that no other motive than the one assigned in your excellency's address induced you to make it, "a solicitude to co-operate in measures for the public good;" the same affection, we perceive, which impelled you to shed your blood, and hazard your life, in defence of your country, glows strongly in your breast, and continues to actuate your conduct.

Which was read.

The order of the day for the second reading of the bill declaring the right of personal liberty, and redressing the injuries thereto, is postponed until Tuesday next.

The resolution in favour of Alexander Rigdon, was sent to the senate by the clerk.

ORDERED, That the bill for the more effectual collection of the county charges in Allegany county, be committed for amendment.

A petition from Benjamin Griffith, of Baltimore county, stating, that he has been confined in the gaol of said county for three years, for and on account of a decree obtained by a certain Josias Pennington in the chancery court, and praying relief in the premises, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee of grievances and courts of justice.

Mr. Robins, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a bill, entitled, An act to lay out certain roads, and authorising certain public landings, in Worcester county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from Richard Dorsey, of Baltimore-town, praying an act of insolvency, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the report and accompanying vouchers of the agent, state to the house, that they have found it, on examination, both accurate and satisfactory, and having derived much useful information from the agent as to the present situation of our public funds, and their probable future increase, they have thought it their duty to communicate the same to the house, with certain resolutions, calculated, in their judgment, to promote the public interest, by an early settlement and collection of all balances due to, and an immediate discharge of all debts due from, the state.