

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of the commissioners for erecting the public buildings of Cæcil county report, that they are of opinion that the said petition is reasonable, and that a law ought to pass in conformity thereto.

By order,

J. F. HARRIS, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Miller and Mr. Wallace, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

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

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 21, 1797.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE are of opinion that from the multiplicity of business that is at present before the legislature, we cannot, with justice to the public, finally close the session within any short period; therefore, from our great anxiety to return home, we propose adjourning on Monday next, with a view of having a spring session on the third Monday of May next.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

Mr. Hollingsworth, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to lay a tax on Cæcil county to complete the public buildings of said county; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The supplement to an act, entitled, An act to streighten and amend the several public roads in the several counties in this state, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to continue certain acts relative to the high court of chancery. ORDERED, That Mr. Key, Mr. Dorsey and Mr. J. C. Thomas, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The supplement to the act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor of Washington county, was read the second time, and passed.

Mr. Key, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to continue certain acts relative to the high court of chancery; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Clarke, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee appointed to examine the petition of the president and directors of the Patowmack company report, that in the year 1784 the legislature of Maryland, in consideration of the great advantages which the state would derive from rendering navigable the river Patowmack and its numerous branches, passed an act incorporating a company for that purpose; that the company was to consist of 500 shares of £. 100 sterling each, amounting to the sum of £. 50,000 sterling; about the same time a similar act of incorporation was passed by the legislature of Virginia; that the state of Maryland became interested therein 50 shares, amounting to £. 5000 sterling, and the commonwealth of Virginia subscribed 100 shares, of which the legislature presented 50 to the late president, general Washington, who accepted the same, and, with peculiar liberality, made a donation of them to a national university to be established in the city of Washington; that in the year 1785 the residue of the shares were subscribed by individuals in Maryland and Virginia, the far greater part being in Maryland; that the directors of the Patowmack company commenced their operations on the river, and have exhausted their capital in extensive and beneficial improvements; that in the month of August, 1795, at a general meeting of the stockholders of said company, it was determined, by virtue of the power given them under the act of incorporation, to enlarge their capital, by opening subscriptions for 100 additional shares, rating each £. 130 sterling, the thirty pounds additional being considered as equivalent to the interest which had accrued on each share first subscribed; of this additional stock the state of Maryland, at November session, 1795, took 40 shares, the state of Virginia 20 shares, and individuals in the state of Maryland the remaining 40, amounting in the whole to £. 13,500 sterling.

The committee thus find the whole capital stock of the Patowmack company amounts to the sum of £. 63000 sterling, of which the state of Maryland holds 90 shares, equal to £. 10200 sterling

The state of Virginia	70	7600
Individuals	390	40200
General Washington, for national university,	50	5000

The committee upon examination find, that the above sum has been applied to the useful purposes for which it was subscribed; that considerable obstructions have been removed in the bed of the river; that a variety of small canals have been made on the banks of the river, to avoid difficulties existing in its natural current, and that great exertion and expence have been incurred in forming canals and locks at the Little Falls, and that very great expence has attended the operations upon the canal and locks at the Great Falls. The committee further report, that the river is navigable for boats carrying 10 tons, or 100 barrels of flour, from Savage river, about 30 miles above Fort Cumberland, to the Great Falls, being a distance of 20 miles, and from the Great Falls to tide water, being about 13 miles, a canal of 2½ miles long has been wholly finished on the Maryland side, with their locks entirely complete; that the only obstacle from Savage river to tide water is at the Great Falls, where a canal of ¼ths of a mile has been completed with a basin for the security of the boats passing and returning; that the water in this basin is elevated above the bed of the river about 78 feet, which will make an insertion of five locks in the distance of 1400 feet necessary, one of which locks is built in a masterly manner of hewn stone, and discharges the water within 500 feet of the point at which it is to be emptied into the bed of the river; that the second one of the locks has been excavated from a body of rock, and is ready for walling, and that there are yet to be done; that the locks at the Great Falls are contemplated to be of the most permanent kind, and made of solid stone, and of prodigious strength. The committee report, that the directors have ceased their operations for want of funds; that the work