

if abandoned, will be subject to the most rapid ruin. The committee, from the present pecuniary distress of the community, see no prospect of obtaining from individuals, and are of opinion, unless legislative assistance is furnished, the works will be essentially injured, the commerce and improvement of the state greatly depressed, her interests in the company put to hazard, and enterprising individuals suffer from their laudable exertions, which an advance of 72,000 dollars will wholly prevent, and which, if advanced, by completing the navigation of the river, will effectuate a measure of the utmost national and state importance; that the state is not in a situation to loan money, but the committee are informed an advance of six per cent. stock will answer the great objects of the company, and therefore submit the propriety of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to transfer 72,000 dollars six per cent. stock of the United States to the order of the president and directors of the Patowmack company, to be expended in completing the locks at the Great Falls; provided nevertheless, that no part of said stock shall be transferred until a bond or bonds, with security approved of by the governor and council, shall be given, conditioned for the completing of said locks within 18 months from the date thereof, unless the works be sooner completed, which bond to be a lien on the real estate of the obligors, and from and after the completion of said works, the state to be a stockholder to the amount of 120 additional shares in the capital of said company.

By order,

J. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. J. C. Thomas, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government which prevent persons conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath from enjoying the rights and privileges of free citizens; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill to incorporate the members of the library company of Baltimore, was read the second time, and passed.

Mr. Worthington, from the committee, brings in and delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, A further supplement to the act, entitled, An act to lay out several turnpike roads in Baltimore county, and for other purposes; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, ORDERED, That Mr. Nicholson, Mr. J. C. Thomas and Mr. Duckett, be a committee to tax the fees arising on the proceedings against Robert Swailes.

On motion, the question was put, That the house reconsider the report and resolution in favour of Richard Chew? Resolved in the affirmative.

The report on the petition of William Polk, and others, was read the second time, and the question put, That the house assent to the resolution therein contained? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

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

Leigh,	Merryman,	Hyland,	Addison,	Key,	Bruce,
Greenwell,	Worthington,	Dashiell,	Bowie,	Nicholson,	Dorley,
J. C. Thomas,	Martin,	Polk,	Duckett,	Corbin,	J. Buchanan,
Chapman,	Kerr,	Hollingsworth,	Quynn,	Wilson,	P. Magruder, 25.

N E G A T I V E.

Angier,	Bourne,	S. Frazier,	Emory,	Jarrett,	Riley,
Comegys,	Brome,	Craig,	Rackliff,	Bond,	R. Magruder,
Hall,	E. Brown,	Pattison,	Warfield,	Young,	Tomlinson,
Godman,	Sherwood,	Miller,	Thomas, Fred.	Kershner,	McComas,
Emerson,	Harwood,	J. Brown,	Montgomery,	C. Beall,	Rice. 33.
Taney,	Jones,	C. Frazier,			

So it was determined in the negative.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to discontinue the donation to Washington college, endorsed; "By the senate, December 6, 1797: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, December 20, 1797: Read the second time and will not pass.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

The following message:

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 20, 1797.

GENTLEMEN,

THE propriety and policy of training up and continuing a succession of able and virtuous characters for the administration of our government, by the promotion and establishment of literary institutions, must be so obvious to your own good sense, that we think any observations from us on the subject unnecessary. In a free country like ours, where merit and abilities alone point out the road to eminence, and where a wise and upright administration of our government materially depends upon the talents and abilities of its officers, and the virtue and wisdom of the citizens, it appears to us to be an object of primary importance to diffuse useful knowledge, and to enlighten the public mind. By this means people will become more capable of making a judicious selection of proper characters to fill the important offices under our government, and better qualified to judge of the propriety or impropriety of their conduct while in office, and the number of proper candidates for such offices will be increased. With these impressions on our minds, it gives us pain to see repeated attempts made to lay prostrate our seminaries of learning, which have been erected at much expence, and the funds thrown into the treasury for state purposes, when the respectable situation of our finances does not, in our opinion, require or justify it. As the money appropriated to this college was not raised by a direct tax upon the people, it appears to us improper to apply it to other purposes. Under these impressions, we have negatived the bill for discontinuing the donation to Washington college, and we refer you to the report of our committee,