

“ By the senate, January 18, 1805: Read the second time by especial order and dissented from.

“ By order,

T. W. HALL, clk.”

With the following message :

BY THE SENATE, JANUARY 18, 1805.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

THE resolutions passed by your house, on the amendment to the constitution of the United States proposed by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, together with the report of the committee who framed them, have been taken by us into consideration. The senate were desirous to make certain alterations of the reasons that induced a rejection of the proposed amendment; but as those reasons were expressed in the report of your committee, over whom they could have no control, they have rejected them, and have originated other resolutions on the subject, and subjoined their reasons for the same, which reasons, if adopted, will, as they ought to be, appear the act of the legislature, and not merely those of a committee, confirmed by one branch. They are submitted to your consideration, and, we trust, will meet your approbation.

By order,

T. W. HALL, clk.

And the following resolutions :

THE resolutions purporting to be the “ doings of the legislature of the state of Massachusetts,” having been laid before the legislature, by the governor of Maryland, and due deliberation having been had thereon, RESOLVED, That in the opinion of the legislature of Maryland, the amendment to the constitution of the United States, proposed by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, ought not to be adopted.

The state of Maryland, by the principle of representation adopted by the constitution of the United States, having its full influence in the councils of the union, it would be unwise to diminish or relinquish it. This principle ought not to be a source of clamour or complaint in any state where a mixed population doth not exist; in those states where it doth exist, they are subjected to additional taxation, as taxation is apportioned according to representation; the principle of representation was the result of a spirit of accommodation and mutual concession; it is one of those fundamental parts of the constitution which ought not to be invaded. The amendment proposed, in the opinion of this legislature, is calculated to shake the union, an event that cannot be too much dreaded. That patriotic and able statesman, the revered Washington, has emphatically recommended the inviolable preservation of the union. He observes “ towards the preservation of their government, and the permanency of their present happy state, it is necessary that they not only discountenance irregular opposition to its acknowledged authority, but also that they resist, with care, the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretext.” “ One method of assault,” he proceeds, “ may be to effect, in the form of the constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system, and thus undermine what cannot be directly overthrown.” Warned by so great an authority, although we acknowledge the propriety of amending when experience discloses defects, it behooves the people of the United States to touch, with awful caution, their great charter, more especially those peculiar principles contained therein, the effects of which were fully seen, and carefully deliberated on, before they were ingrafted into the constitution. When a full, fair and successful experiment of the wise, energetic and salutary provisions of our constitution has been made; when the administration of the government is so ably conducted in its various departments; when tranquillity, safety and happiness, are diffused throughout the union, equal rights protected, and the real interests of all eminently promoted and preserved, it would be highly impolitic and unwise to put them to hazard, by sanctioning a measure which can be productive of no advantage to the people of the United States, but may tend to weaken the bonds of the union, introduce national discord and a final subversion of all government.

RESOLVED also, That the governor of this state be and he is hereby requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to the governor of the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

By order,

T. W. HALL, clk.

Which were read.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill, entitled, An act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, and after sometime spent in considering the same,

The house adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, January 19, 1805.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

ORDERED, That the committee of claims close the journal of accounts including Monday next.

The report on the petition of Thomas Nicholls, of Simon, of Montgomery county, was read the second time, the resolution therein contained assented to, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The report on the memorial of John Gassaway, was read the second time, the resolutions therein contained assented to, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The bill, entitled, An act to extend the powers of the trustees of the poor of Montgomery county, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by the clerk.