

fully submit the whole merits of the embargo plan, in all its various bearings, to be freely and finally decided by our constituents, with an upright and rational confidence in their discernment, integrity and patriotism.

But the principal motive which has occasioned this reply, was to object to the extraordinary *manner* of your message, to remonstrate against the new and exceptionable style, by which, we regret to observe, that it is so peculiarly distinguished. We regret to find, that a language should be adopted and sanctioned by such high authority, of a nature so well calculated to inflame the violence of political passion, and to promote disgust, dissatisfaction and strife, instead of those benevolent and honourable affections which, as guardians of the commonwealth, at this juncture particularly, it should be the duty and the happiness of us all to inculcate. Within our recollection, this is the first document of legislative proceeding, the first act of official character in Maryland, in which its citizens are openly designated and arrayed against each other under the appellation of contending parties, and in which a very numerous, and certainly a respectable portion of them, are virtually stigmatized as objects of the most unjust and ungenerous suspicion. According to the terms of the message, and the obvious inferences which are to be drawn, the very members of this house, constituting a major part of it, who in the exercise of a constitutional right have voted to declare those feelings, which they believe to pervade the great mass of the substantial and independent interests of the state, may therefore be proscribed, not merely as "habitual opponents of the administration," but as being among "the friends of the great belligerents of Europe, and artful and designing men, who seek their own aggrandizement through the distresses and commotions of their native country." An imputation so aggravated and unfounded, as far as it may be supposed to affect ourselves personally, would not be entitled to receive a moment's attention, if it was not from an apprehension of the gross errors and animosities which it must tend to infuse into the public mind, and were it not to remain an unseemly precedent upon the journals of the legislature. When once an acrimonious spirit of censure shall be suffered to prevail in the accustomed mode of intercourse which subsists between the two branches, it is easy to foresee that, instead of the decorum and discretion which should characterize every such production, a message may soon degenerate into a mere vehicle of pert malignity and intemperate passion, emboldened and instigated under a consciousness of legislative impunity. Deprecating improper extremities in this form, and scrupulous ourselves to avoid every appearance of indignity, we should be unmindful of the obligations of self-respect, and unfaithful to the sacred trust reposed in us, if we did not address these remarks with candour and freedom to the serious and dispassionate contemplation of your honourable body.

By order,

J. BREWER, clk.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to empower the executive to purchase annually arms of the manufacture of the state, for the use of the militia, and for other purposes. ORDERED, That Mr. Spencer, Mr. Baer, Mr. Scott, Mr. J. Thomas and Mr. Mitchell, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Dorsey, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to alter and abolish all such parts of the constitution and form of government as are therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The amendments proposed to the bill to authorise and empower the levy court of Queen-Anne's county to assess and levy a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned, were read, agreed to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed.

The bill to make a further provision for the erection of a new court-house for Baltimore county, was read the second time by especial order, and passed.

Mr. T. N. Williams, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act, entitled, An act for regulating the mode of staying executions, and repealing the acts of assembly therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. O. Williams, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act authorising Jasper E. Tilly, late sheriff of Anne-Arundel county, to complete his collection; which was read the first and second time by especial order and passed.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a company to straighten and turnpike the post road from the Delaware line, in Cæcil county, to the city of Baltimore. ORDERED, That Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Hopper and Mr. Davis, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the bill regulating the fees of the register of the court of chancery, and, on motion, that the words "and attorneys at law, and the mode of collecting the same," be added to the title of the said bill, the question was put, That the house adjourn? Resolved in the affirmative.

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

F R I D A Y, December 16, 1808.

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

The bill authorising Jasper E. Tilly, late sheriff of Anne-Arundel county, to complete his collection, the bill to make a further provision for the erection of a new court-house for Baltimore county, and the bill for the relief of Francis Rawlings, of Anne-Arundel county, were sent to the senate by the clerk.

Mr. Belt, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following report: