

upon the governor elect, and request his attendance in the senate room to qualify according to the constitution and form of government.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying a law may pass to incorporate a company to build a bridge over the river Susquehanna at Havre-de-Grace, beg leave to report, that whereas at the last session of the general assembly a law was passed authorising the building of a bridge over the river Susquehanna, at such point on said river at or between Havre-de-Grace and the Bald Friar Ferry, on said river, as certain commissioners therein named should fix upon as a site for said bridge : And whereas the said commissioners have viewed said river and have as yet fixed upon no determinate point on said river : And whereas it is unknown to your committee whether the said commissioners will not fix upon Havre-de-Grace as the site for said bridge, and if they should, the object of the present application would be gratified. Your committee, for this reason, and from the late period at which the application is made, think it adviseable to suggest the propriety of referring it to the next general assembly. All which is submitted.

By order,

R. WELCH, Jun. clk.

Which was read the first and second time by especial order and concurred with.

The bill authorising John Mitchell, late sheriff and collector of Caroline county, to complete his collection, was read the second time, and passed.

A petition from Samuel Brown, of Dorchester county, praying that the money paid by him on obtaining a proclamation warrant on a tract of land called Timber-Land, in Allegany county, may be refunded to him, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Frazier, Mr. Dennis, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Kerr and Mr. Ennalls, to consider and report thereon.

The house adjourns until 4 o'clock, P. M.

FOUR O'CLOCK, P. M.

THE house met.

The bill authorising John Mitchell, late sheriff and collector of Caroline county, to complete his collection, and the resolutions relative to repairing the amories at Frederick-town and Easton, were sent to the senate by the clerk.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following message :

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, June 8, 1809.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

ON the 6th instant a message was received from your honourable body, proposing to proceed, by joint ballot, to the election of a senator to represent this state in the senate of the United States for the constitutional period.

If we declined giving an immediate and direct answer to that message, it is not to be attributed to inattention or disrespect, but being sincerely anxious that the disagreement, which it was foreseen would arise between the two houses, as to the person contemplated for senator, might be eventually adjusted in a spirit of mutual accommodation, we wished to avoid any precipitate step, by which our hopes of such an arrangement would be at once entirely precluded.

Guided by these hopes, and actuated by motives equally liberal and just, we yesterday submitted to the senate a proposal for a conference, by a joint committee of the two houses, on this very important and interesting subject. An answer was immediately returned from the senate, rejecting, in decisive terms, the proposition for a conference offered on the part of this house.

Thus circumstanced, no alternative was left to us, but either to yield implicitly to the course insisted on by the senate, which must eventuate in an appointment highly repugnant to the sentiments of a majority of this house, and to the people of the state of Maryland, whose delegates they are, or else to assert a constitutional right of resolving on the mode of concurrent choice, by which the wishes and feelings of our constituents and ourselves might, in some degree, be regarded, and gratified in the election finally to be made. The name of John Eager Howard, a name distinguished in the annals of American patriotism, of untarnished virtue, and high estimation in the hearts of his countrymen, was inserted in the resolution transmitted to you yesterday, because we believed such a choice would be equally satisfactory to the people, and honourable to ourselves, but if this nomination was not agreeable to the senate, unless they were determined to confine the choice to a particular individual, and compel us to re-elect him, and him alone, against whom it is known, that in this house, and throughout a majority of the counties, there exist great and insuperable objections ; if such was not the determination of the senate, we should have hoped they would have preferred the opportunity of uniting with us in a plan of reasonable concession on both sides, and have selected some character, in whose appointment both houses might concur, without any violent sacrifice of duty or opinion.

In this hope, however, we have been again disappointed by your message of to-day, informing us, that the senate will persist in adhering to the ground they have assumed, and which they pronounce to be the only correct and proper one. Let us examine the accuracy of this belief.

By the constitution of the United States, power is given to the state legislatures to prescribe the manner, as well as the time and place, of holding elections for senators and representatives to congress.