

to make it lawful to lay an equal and a general tax for the support of the Christian religion. **ORDERED,** That Mr. Archer, Mr. Schley and Mr. Belt, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion by Mr. Bland, the following resolution was read.

TO THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE General Assembly of Maryland feels the firmest attachment to the Constitution of the United States, and is sincerely desirous of promoting the integrity and prosperity of the Union. This assembly is also impressed with sentiments of respect and esteem for the Senators and Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States; and it would not officiously obtrude its opinions upon the councils of the nation, but when it is perceived, that principles have been agitated, and establishments proposed, which there is reason to believe must finally prove ruinous to the harmony of these states, and poisonous to the liberties of the people, if adopted, it cannot refrain from expressing its opinions and fears, its hopes and wishes.

The Bank of the United States was established by an act of congress, passed in the year seventeen hundred and ninety-one. The good people of Maryland, preferring harmony to discord, and peace to strife, beheld the erection and continuance of that baleful institution, with a spirit of tolerance and self-command which they believed comported with their duty as citizens of a free and enlightened Republic. They beheld their beloved constitution bruised and fractured by a governmental banking company; but they looked forward to a season when the wound might be healed, and their fundamental law restored to its original vigour and purity. They patiently awaited the arrival of the period when the charter of the Bank of the United States would expire, when so dangerous an institution should quietly drop into oblivion, and be heard of no more. Such have been the hopes and expectation of the people of this state; but they have of late had some cause to apprehend that these hopes and expectations may prove to be delusive. Notwithstanding the warning experience of this and other nations, in hostility to the interests of the people of these states, and in contempt of the constitution of the United States, the establishment of a National Bank has been again proposed as an institution, the erection of which is wise, politic, necessary and constitutional!

In opposition to doctrines so dangerous in their consequences, the immediate representatives of the people of Maryland hold themselves bound to raise their voice. There is, in the opinion of this assembly, a material and striking difference between a banking company incorporated by a state law, and limited in its operations to commercial purposes merely, and a great monied institution, which grasps the shield of the government for its defence, and is continually nourished and invigorated by the revenues of the nation passing through its various branches. The provincial banks of our country are calculated to answer all the ends of a fair commerce; they can never endanger the interests of the nation, because their operations are confined to given circles of demand for paper credit; they are most likely to produce the benefits desired by such institutions, because their issues and credits must always be graduated by the real commerce of the country, and those only who are interested guard their capital and profits, by retaining funds sufficient to answer any demand, and by curtailing credit, when credit cannot be extended to advantage; they cannot long continue to the manifest prejudice of the community, because they depend solely on unbiassed public opinion; their credit, like that of every trading company, rests where all credit ought to rest, upon actual capital and real resources; they act and are acted upon by the only true and genuine principles of credit—public opinion, flowing free as air in every direction to its proper level, uninfluenced by any unnatural or foreign power whatever. Within these bounds, and upon these principles, banking establishments have been beneficial to our country—And experience proves, that operating under such limitations, if an effort should be made to push paper credit far beyond its due extent, the banks themselves fall the sacrifice; the shock produced is that of a common bankruptcy; the laws, the constitution and the peace of the commonwealth, remain unagitated by it; such a failure induces caution, and rather renovates than impairs credit, by evincing that it rests on its proper basis.

But the operations and consequences of a National Bank are widely dissimilar. Such an institution, under the control of government, holds out a perpetual temptation to engage in measures of extravagance, or to pursue them after the real resources of the country are spent. It affords a cover, behind which the dilapidators of the treasury may be hid from the eyes of the people. It furnishes a hypocritical cloak which public men may throw about them, to support a character they do not merit. The nature of the loans, the deposits, and all the bargains, dealings and contrivances, between the government and the bank, are wholly invisible to the public; their causes are not known, and their detrimental effects and consequences are above the reach of calculation. Where such a connexion subsists, no efficacious mode can be devised for preventing collusion between the necessities of the administration and the avarice of the bank, to the prejudice of the nation. The metallic medium of the whole country may be collected, or it may be hastily drawn from the banks of any state in the union into the hands of administration, and squandered on objects and for purposes the most ill-advised and disastrous, with a rapidity ruinous in its effects, and utterly beyond control. A national bank, sooner or later, concentrates the power, and congregates into a distinct body the monied interest of a country, which it ever ranges on the side of administration.—Executive patronage and monied influence are thus brought to act in concert for their mutual aggrandizement, to the destruction of public virtue, and the ruin of the liberties of the people. Nothing can finally resist their united sway; even the monied interest of the state banks, allured by the profit