

By the Senate, January 26, 1830.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have received your message of the 22d instant, requesting us to return to you the resolutions authorising and requiring his Excellency the Governor to present swords to John Contee, Joseph Smoot, and David Geisinger, in testimony of the approbation of the Legislature for their gallant conduct during the late war, and suggesting your intention to substitute for them "such as will be quite as complimentary," and "quite as acceptable to the parties concerned," and with the view of including others not less entitled to the respect and consideration of the Legislature.

We regret that considerations of policy and duty preclude us from acceding to your request. The course heretofore pursued by the Legislature, in expressing their approbation of the gallantry of our officers, has been by the presentation of swords—to depart now from this course, we respectfully conceive, would be impolitic and unjust, because to offer a further boon to the officers in question would be to diminish that already bestowed on others; to offer less would be ungracious if not unjust, and subversive of the object of the resolution.

To that part of your message respecting the addition of other names, permit us to reply—that as the object of your honorable body is to insert the names of some other distinguished officers, a return cannot be necessary; the resolutions sent to the Senate are distinct and separate, and with your honorable house rests the appropriate and constitutional power of originating resolutions of the character now under consideration, and whenever you may deem it proper to present others, they shall receive from us due deliberation. We forbear to urge objections to your message, on the grounds of parliamentary usage, but we are constrained to express our belief, that a due adherence to parliamentary usage, would promote the harmonious action of the Legislature, and the dispatch of public business.

By order,

Louis Gassaway, Clerk.

Mr. Brawner moved that the several orders of the day be postponed, by a suspension of the 7th rule, relating thereto, for the purpose of taking up and considering the report made on the 20th instant, from the joint committee on the subject of an early adjournment of the present session of the General Assembly.

And the question thereupon being put, was determined in the negative; two thirds of the members present not voting