

the 16th inst. requesting the return of the bill, which had passed your honourable body, and which had been sent to the senate, entitled, An act to authorise a subscription to the capital stock of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company, and respectfully declines acceding thereto. The bill was received by the senate on the 15th, and before the receipt of your message had been read the first time in the senate, had been referred to the committee on internal improvement, and a favourable report had been made upon it. The bill had thus been acted upon by the senate, and could not properly be withdrawn from its consideration. Independently however, of the situation of the bill in the senate, other objections exist to a compliance with your request. The adoption of such a course would be inconsistent, in the opinion of the senate, with the known parliamentary usage. It would be to subject, in an irregular manner, the action of one house to the controul of the other, upon all subjects which had previously passed the latter. How easy would it be for either branch thus to withdraw and negative, or cripple by injudicious amendments, any bill which had been passed by it, and which had been sent to the co-ordinate branch of the legislature. Suppose a bill, after discussion and deliberation, to have passed either branch by a very small majority, and to have been sent to the other branch. Suppose in such a case, the arrival or return to the house, of several persons, who had not heard the discussion or participated in the deliberation upon the subject, but who were nevertheless hostile to the bill. It would be in their power, by a union with the minority on the passage of the bill, to send a message, get back the bill, and negative it. The senate uses these cases not from the slightest suspicion that such would be the result on the present occasion; of that they entertain no apprehension. They use these cases as illustrative merely of the effect which might follow from the adoption of a novel, and, as the senate conceives, an irregular course that would authorise a request by one house that a bill should be returned to it, after it had been sent to and subjected to the action of another. No inconvenience can result to your honourable body from this determination, for several other modes of proceeding are still open, by which you may attain your end. The senate will most respectfully beg leave to suggest one of these modes from among many that might be cited. You design to make amendments to the bill, you can embody these amendments in the form of a supplement, and if approved by the senate, they will of course be passed, if not, and they be rejected, still your honourable body will be in the same situation that it would