

A petition from Valentine Lynn, late a soldier in the Maryland line, praying compensation for his services, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Duckett, Mr. Baker and Mr. Chapman, to consider and report thereon.

The report on the petition of sundry inhabitants of Washington county, was read the second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Bowles, Mr. Cellar and Mr. Ridout, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act, entitled, An act relative to the proceedings in the court of chancery and in the land-office. ORDERED, That Mr. Whittington, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wilson, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

A petition from Matthew Hawkins, and others, securities of Thomas O'Bryon, deceased, late sheriff and collector of Queen-Anne's county, praying they may be empowered by law to collect the balances due the said deceased, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Brown, Mr. Campbell and Mr. C. Pfazier, to consider and report thereon.

A petition from John Goulding, and others, of Baltimore county, praying an act of insolvency, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee on petitions of a similar nature.

Mr. Worthington, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying a repeal of the thirty-third section of an act, entitled, An act for the more effectual paving the streets of Baltimore-town, in Baltimore county, and for other purposes, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and eighty-two, have had the same under their consideration, and are of opinion the prayer thereof ought to be granted. All which is submitted.

By order,

J. HAKWOOD, clk.

Which was read:

Mr. Barroll, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the address of the governor of Maryland, directed to the general assembly, beg. leave to report it as their opinion, that an answer thereto should be prepared, and as the address is directed generally to the legislature, they think it most proper that it should be answered by a joint committee from the two houses; they therefore submit the propriety of sending the following message to the senate:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, NOVEMBER 17, 1796.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE,

WE have taken into consideration the propriety of answering the address of the governor of Maryland, communicated to this house by the senate, and are of opinion that a joint committee be appointed from the two houses to prepare an answer thereto. We have named Mr. Philip B. Key, Mr. Robert Smith, Mr. James Carroll; Mr. David M'Mechen and Mr. Henry H. Chapman, to meet such gentlemen as you may appoint for this purpose.

By order,

J. HARWOOD, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, and the message therein agreed to, and sent to the senate by the clerk.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to settle and ascertain the salary of members of the council for the ensuing year, endorsed; "By the senate, November 16, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, November 17, 1796: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

Ordered to be engrossed.

The resolution in favour of Edward Dennis, endorsed; "By the senate, November 16, 1796: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk.

"By the senate, November 17, 1796: Read the second time by especial order and assented to.

"By order,

A. VAN-HORN, clk."

A letter from William Cooke, Esquire, To the Honourable the SENATE and HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of MARYLAND.

GENTLEMEN,

BY a resolve of the legislature, passed at the last session, William Pinkney and Philip Barton Key, Esquires, together with myself, were "appointed commissioners on the part of this state to meet such commissioners as might be appointed for the same purpose by the commonwealth of Virginia, to settle and adjust, by mutual compact between the two governments, the western and southern limits of this state, and the dividing lines and boundaries between this state and the said commonwealth; and also to settle and adjust any claim of this state, or the said commonwealth, to territory within the limits of the other."

In the execution of this trust, I have thought it my duty, not only to acquire authentic information of the nature of the possessions held under the Virginia grants of land, within the limits claimed by this state, but also to examine carefully the laws of nature and nations, that it might be known, how far those laws would affect the claim of this state, before such claim was formally made, or prosecuted, in case it could not otherwise be adjusted by an amicable settlement.

The true boundary between this state and the state of Virginia, depends on the single question, Which is the first fountain of the river Patowmack? A question which has hitherto rested upon opinion only, without any effectual step having been taken to ascertain the same. Many years ago the