# REPORT.

The Committee on Finance to whom were referred the petitions and reports in the matter relating to the claim of Henry M. Fitzhugh, administrator of William Fitzhugh, report that it appears from the evidence before them that Col. William Fitzhugh had been an efficient officer in the English army in Maryland before the Revolutionary war, and had been rewarded by the British Government with a pension of a captain's half-pay.

That at the commencement of the war he took an active part in favor of the cause of freedom, threw up his commission in the British service, and resigned his pension of half-pay. Too old himself to join the American army, he placed two of his sons in the service of his country, and maintained them there out of his private means during the war. His own services were rendered to his State and country in the Legislature, in the council, in the committee of safety of his county, and in the convention which formed the first Constitution of Maryland.

By reason of this very strenuous opposition to the mother country when it expected of him, as an old officer of her army and as a holder of the very important place of Commissary General of the colony, at the commencement of the Revolution, a very different and more self-interested course, he was visited with all the wrongs and injuries which a vindictive enemy could inflict. His houses and property on his estate, at the mouth of the Patuxent, were burnt and plundered on two occasions, in the years 1780 and 1781, and forty-two of his most valuable slaves carried off by the British, who then had a predatory force in the lower waters of the Chesapeake bay. The losses thus inflicted upon him amounted, by the report of a commission appointed to ascertain the same at the time, by law, to the large sum, for the times, of £5,578.10, or about $15,000. His valuable real estate thus left without the means of cultivation, became burdensome to him, and himself and family were driven from their home.