

Mr. Lake delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Silas Griffith, of Dorchester county, have considered the same, and report, that the petitioner states that a certain William Gist, of the county aforesaid, is a debtor to the state of Maryland on judgment for the purchase money of certain Choptank Indian lands in Dorchester county—That the petitioner purchased said lands of said Gist, being unacquainted with the situation of said lands, or that the state had any claim upon them; the petitioner further states, that the states' agent is about to issue execution against said lands, which will injure him very much, as he is unprepared to pay the debt in consequence of the circumstances of the contract. The committee therefore viewing the circumstances of the case as sufficient to entitle the petitioner to the commiseration of the state, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That all proceedings on the said judgment shall be suspended until the first Monday of July eighteen hundred and twenty five; Provided, that the defendants to said judgment pay in the manner following—that is to say, the one third part of the principal and all the interest and costs due thereon, on or before the first Monday of July next, the like sum of principal and all the interest due on the remainder of the principal on the first Monday of January eighteen hundred and twenty five, and the remaining part of the principal and whatever interest is due on the first Monday of July eighteen hundred and twenty five, and if either of the parties shall neglect to pay the proportion or installments so as directed to be paid by them, then execution shall and may forthwith be issued on the judgment or judgments against the party or parties neglecting to pay as aforesaid, in the same manner as if this resolution had not passed; Provided also, that nothing in this resolution contained shall prevent the state from recovering any part of the said debt from any of the said parties if either of the defendants shall become unable or neglect to pay the part or installments so as aforesaid ordered to be paid by them respectively.

By order, JOHN DOUGLASS, Ck.

The bill relating to the importation of slaves from other states into this state, was read the second time, will not pass, and the bill returned to the senate.

Mr. Jones obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled an act to repeal the act of assembly therein mentioned; ordered that Messrs. Jones, Lake and Bratton report the same.

Mr. Semmes reports a bill, entitled an act to repeal an act, to direct the mode of collecting the several taxes imposed on proceedings in the court of chancery.

Mr. W. Duvall reports a bill, entitled an act authorising James Orme, of Montgomery county, to close an old road leading from Richard Langford's to intersect the public road near John Bowie's farm.

Mr. Johnson delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying an alteration in the law of trespass; have had the same under consideration, and report that they conceive the alteration as prayed for unnecessary, and the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

By order, TRUEMAN CROSS, Ck.

Read and concurred with.

The house adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY, February 3, 1824.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Gerry obtained leave to bring in a supplement to an act, entitled an act, to change the place of holding the election in the third election district in Cecil county; ordered that Messrs. Gerry, Henderson and Bryan report the same.

Mr. Pitt delivers the following statement:

Inasmuch as a wide difference of opinion, and great diversity of views exist among the members of the joint committee, appointed by the legislature, vested with authority to examine books and interrogate witnesses, on oath, as to the situation of the Penitentiary, and as it is probable a formal report of that committee will not be made for some time, the undersigned as chairman of the former committee, and author of the report made by it, and as a member of the last report, begs leave to submit the following brief statement:

The undersigned is constrained to adopt this course, (although unparliamentary) because the last committee consider that their duties are entirely distinct from those of the former, and consequently any error in the report on the Penitentiary already submitted, cannot be corrected by the one, they may hereafter make.

It is not the intention of the undersigned to enter into an elaborate commentary on the facts, developed by the testimony which accompanies this statement, as he deems the legislature more competent than himself to ascertain the situation of the Penitentiary, by an examination of the written evidence herewith submitted, but simply to correct some errors in the report on that institution, which he had the honor to submit.

In the report of the former committee, it is stated "that from the first day of December 1822, to the 30th November 1823, inclusive; 113 convicts were received into the Penitentiary, only one of whom was sentenced to a confinement for a greater term than ten months." That they had been sentenced for no greater term than ten months, is an error occasioned by a rapid glance at the report of the directors of the Penitentiary, No. 2. Still the argument on the shortness of the time is unshaken. Indeed one of the most intelligent of the directors stated, that of those who had been sent to the Penitentiary a second time Not one had been there at his first confinement long enough to learn a trade.