

Mr. Howard delivers a bill entitled, an act to establish a permanent salary for the chief justice of the court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery for Baltimore county; which was read

The bill entitled, an act to provide for transcribing certain wills and a book of inventories in the register's office of St. Mary's county, was sent to the senate.

Mr. S. Stevens delivers a petition from Solomon Barrott, of Talbot county, and a petition from Solomon Summers, of Queen Ann's county, old soldiers, praying relief; which was read and referred to the standing committee on soldier's petitions

Mr. Donaldson delivers a petition from Thomas Cloudesty, of the city of Baltimore, praying a special act of insolvency; which was read and referred to Messrs Donaldson, Barney and Randall.

Mr. Maulsby from the committee delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Buckler Bond, of Harford county, beg leave to report, that they have had the same under consideration, and are of opinion that the levy court of Harford county have already full powers to act on the subject, and that legislative interference is unnecessary, and that therefore the petitioner have leave to withdraw his petition.

By order,

WM. K. LAMBON, Clk.

Which was read.

On motion by Mr. Randall the following resolution was read agreed to, and sent to the senate.

*Resolved*, that the governor and council be, and they are hereby authorised to examine the claim of Richard Waters, of the city of Baltimore, against the state of Maryland, for supplying the drafted militia stationed at Baltimore, in May and June last, with blankets and shirts, and to draw on the treasurer of the western shore for such sum of money as may appear to be due him for supplying the said shirts and blankets; provided they shall be satisfied that no provision has been made by the general government for the payment of the said claim; and provided also, that the said Richard Waters shall deliver to the use of the state of Maryland the said blankets, except eight.

Mr. J. H. Thomas from the committee delivers the following report:

The committee appointed on that part of the communication of the executive of this state, "which relates to the defenceless and unprotected situation in which the state has been left by the general government, the calamities of the war, and the means of defence," beg leave to report, that in obedience to the order of instructions to them, passed by the house, and in the spirit of the said instructions, the committee have prepared an address to the congress and president of the United States, from this house, in behalf of the people of Maryland, which is herewith respectfully submitted for consideration together with the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the honorable the speaker of this house be, and he is hereby requested to cause three copies of the following address to be made out, to be signed by the speaker in behalf of the house of delegates of Maryland, and attested by the clerk: that the speaker transmit one copy thereof to a member of the senate of the United States, from this state, requesting him in behalf of this house, to present the same to that body; that he transmit another copy thereof to a member of the house of representatives of the United States, from this state, requesting him in behalf of this house, to present the same to that body; and that he transmit another copy thereof to the said members jointly, requesting them, as a deputation in behalf of this state, to present the same to the president of the United States; & likewise requesting them to receive any answer which may be returned thereto, to be forwarded to the speaker, who is hereby authorised, at his discretion, in case the session shall have closed before such answer is communicated, to cause the same to be published for the information of the good people of this state.

By order,

LOUIS GASSAWAY, Clk.

*To his Excellency the President of the United States, and to the honorable the senate, and the honorable the House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.*

The House of Delegates of the state of Maryland, immediately representing the interests and feelings of the people of this state, are impelled, by urgent impressions of public duty, to address the constituted authorities of the union, on the awful condition of national affairs, and the exposed and defenceless situation in which the state of Maryland has been hitherto left by the general government, under the impending calamities of war.

The principles on which the national compact was founded, are too recent in the recollection of the American people, to require the aid of illustration at this period. It is well known that the weakness and incapacity of the old confederation, to afford the means of safety and protection to the several members of the confederacy, produced a prevailing sense of the necessity of some more efficient form of government, invested with adequate powers to provide for the common defence and promote the general welfare. As an important concern of the general welfare, it was also anticipated, with confidence, that under this form of government the just interests of commerce, connected as it is with the agricultural interests and other occupations of an industrious community, would be faithfully and effectually preserved. To this reasonable hope and expectation, we are chiefly to ascribe the sacrifices and concessions made by the navigating states, and more especially by our patriotic brethren of New England, in procuring the adoption of the federal constitution. The state of Maryland sincerely concurred in the ratification of that instrument,—but her wise men, who advocated the new system, it is presumed, would have been anxiously perplexed if they could have foreseen that this government would prove in its operation, no less incompetent or unavailing for the purposes of common defence, than the confederation which preceded it; while on the other hand, it might become, in its course of policy, the destroyer, instead of the protector of commerce; the inflicter of intense suffering, instead of being the benign guardian of the public security and happiness.

More than nineteen months have now elapsed since congress declared war against England.—There is reason to believe that a much longer period has gone by, since this fatal measure was