

THE committee, to whom was referred sundry petitions on the subject of depreciation, beg leave to report, that by the resolution of congress of the 10th of April, 1780, all officers and soldiers then in service were entitled to the benefit of that resolve, but that the law of this state, which passed at October session in the same year, does not extend so far; wherefore your committee are of opinion, that a supplement to the law ought to pass, allowing depreciation to all those who were in service on the 10th of April, 1780, which would comprehend the cases of colonel Thomas Pryce, captain Levin Handy, and Charles Gough; with respect to the petitions of major Philemon Griffith, captain Mountjoy Bayly, captain James Fernandes, and Mr. John Uther Charlton, your committee beg leave to report, that although their petitions are founded in truth, yet that all those officers who resigned antecedent to the said tenth day of April, 1780, are under the same circumstances with those gentlemen, and are equally entitled to the indulgence of the legislature. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

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

By the **COMMITTEE**, to whom was referred the petition of Charles Blair and Lilly Blair, of Baltimore-town, late Lilly Hamilton, of the county of Dorchester.

YOUR committee beg leave to report, that they have taken into consideration the petition, and are of opinion, that the facts therein contained are true, except that part of the petition, setting forth, that no consideration was paid by Alexander Hamilton, for a moiety of a tract of land called Retaliation, containing four hundred and seventy acres; about which fact your committee are in doubt, as it appears upon the face of the deed from William Murray (the father of the aforesaid Lilly) that the sum of two hundred and twenty-four pounds current money was paid by the said Alexander Hamilton for the said land called Retaliation. Your committee find, that for many years before the intermarriage of the aforesaid Lilly with the aforesaid Charles Blair, it was currently reported and generally believed, that the aforesaid Alexander Hamilton was drowned, which report is corroborated by two depositions hereunto annexed. That your committee are fully persuaded, that the said Alexander Hamilton was, a few months ago, living (in England) and has married another wife, by whom he has several children. From the peculiar situation in which this poor woman was left, her being of a most reputable family, her bringing to the said Hamilton an handsome fortune, and taking into consideration every circumstance, your committee take leave to give it as their opinion, that a law ought to pass, vesting an estate for life to the said Lilly Blair (alias Hamilton) in the aforesaid parcel of land called Retaliation, and also in those small parcels of land willed to her by her brother David Murray, as by an extract of his will hereunto annexed will appear; and also that the negroes given to her by her father and other relations, with their increase, not exceeding twelve, ought to be at her own disposal, especially as they, with the life-rent estate in the lands above mentioned, will not amount to near one third part of the said Alexander Hamilton's property within this state. All which is submitted to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Thomas delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report:

To the honourable the **HOUSE of DELEGATES**.

HAVING considered the memorial of William Paca, Esq; in behalf of John Philemon Paca, an infant, his son, referred to us by your honourable house, we are unanimously of opinion, that the tenant in tail, on conviction and attainder of high treason, only forfeits the estate tail during his or her life, and the continuance of such issue as would have been inheritable to the estate tail, in case the tenant had not been attainted; therefore, had the said Lloyd Dulany, mentioned in the memorial, been attainted of treason, in the ordinary course of law, the three tracts of land mentioned in the memorial would have been forfeited to the state only during his life and the continuance of such issue of his body, as would have been inheritable to them in case he had not been attainted; and we are further of opinion, that the act of November session 1781, cap. 28, entitled, An act to raise recruits, directing the property of the said Lloyd Dulany to be sold, neither ought nor can be construed to affect the right of the said John Philemon Paca, in remainder, to the said three tracts of land.

J. ROGERS,
ROB. H. HARRISON,
NIC. THOMAS,
A. C. HANSON.

Which was read.

The house adjourns till 3 o'clock.

P O S T