

Holliday, Esq; one of the commissioners for the preservation and sale of confiscated British property, had taken possession of him as a slave belonging to a British subject, that he is a native of the city of London, and therefore by birth a freeman, and praying relief; severally endorsed; "By the senate, December 3, 1783: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

Which were read.

The petition of Thomas Bailey was referred to Mr. C. Ridgely, Mr. J. Stevenson, and Mr. Mackall, to consider and report thereon; and the petition of negro Will was referred to Mr. Hindman, Mr. Ridgely of William, and Mr. Hopper, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Ridgely of William has leave of absence.

The order of the day, relative to the petition of William Woolsey, is postponed till Monday next.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Bailey, beg leave to report, That they have examined the same, and the certificate recommending said Bailey, and are of opinion, that he ought to be relieved agreeable to the prayer of said petition. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

A. GOLDBER, clk.

Which was read.

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

T H U R S D A Y, December 4, 1783.

THE house met. Present the same members as on yesterday, except Mr. Carroll, Mr. Wootton, and Mr. Ridgely of William. The proceedings of yesterday were read. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Duckett appeared in the house.

A petition and representation from sundry inhabitants of Charles county, praying an act may pass, for building a court-house at the place formerly laid out for a town by the reverend Mr. George Hunter, at the mouth of Port-Tobacco creek, and also for the condemnation of the land there necessary to build a town, provided the present proprietor should refuse or delay to sell and convey the lots on reasonable terms, was preferred and read, and thereupon ORDERED, That the subject matter of the said petition and counter petition be taken into consideration on Saturday next.

The report on the petition of Thomas Bailey was read the second time and concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto; and Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Oneale, and Mr. J. Stevenson, were appointed a committee for that purpose.

Mr. Hindman, from the committee, brings in and deliver to Mr. Speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of negro Will, beg leave to report, That they have considered the facts therein stated, and find them to be true, and are of opinion, that the prayer of the petition ought to be granted. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

W. H. M'PHERSON, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, and thereupon the following resolve was prepared, and sent to the senate by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Dunn:

Whereas a petition has been presented to this general assembly by negro Will, setting forth, that he is entitled to his freedom, and the general assembly not having sufficient information on the subject, RESOLVED, That the commissioners for the preservation of confiscated British property are hereby directed not to make sale of negro Will, until the further pleasure of the general assembly be known.

The bill to authorize and empower Elizabeth Vallette, Thomas Harwood, and William Brogden, executors of the last will and testament of Elie Vallette, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, to sell and dispose of the real estate of the said Elie Vallette, for the purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Dunn.

A memorial from Isaac Hanson, setting forth, that he is rendered incapable of helping himself, from a number of wounds which he received in the action at Camden, and praying relief in the premises aforesaid, was preferred and read, and referred to the committee on major-general Smallwood's representation.

ORDERED, That Mr. N. Worthington, Mr. Somerville, and Mr. Ware, be a committee to consider and report on the petition of George Shipley, junior.