

THE committee to whom were referred the petition of John Booth, and the petition of Alexander Robinson and Priscilla his wife, beg leave to report, that they have taken the subject therein referred into their consideration, and find that Mr. Bartholomew Booth died in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five, seized in fee of a valuable tract of land lying in Washington county, containing seventeen hundred acres, called Delamare, which descended to William Booth, his heir at law, the will of Bartholomew being prior in date to his purchase of the said land, and having no operation thereon.

They find that the said Bartholomew left two sons, William and Robert Booth, citizens of this state, and a son named John Booth, then residing in Great-Britain.

They find that William Booth, after his father's death, entered into a bond or obligation to his brother Robert, to secure to him one half of the estate whereof the said Bartholomew died seized. They find the said William and Robert afterwards, in the same year, sailed from this country for Great-Britain, having each of them first made their last will and testament, by which, after several legacies, William Booth made his brother Robert his residuary devisee, and Robert his brother John, the petitioner. They find that the said William and Robert have never been heard of since, but that there is every reason to believe that they perished at sea.

Your committee find that the personal estate of the said Bartholomew was not sufficient, by the sum of one thousand and eighty pounds, to discharge the debts of the said Bartholomew, independent of the legacies under his will.

Your committee find that William Booth died considerably indebted, and charged his estate with legacies to the amount of two thousand one hundred and seventy-five pounds; that the said Robert Booth was also considerably indebted at the time of his death, and charged his estate with legacies to the amount of eleven hundred pounds.

Your committee, after an examination of the several claims against the estates of Bartholomew, William, and Robert Booth, for debts and legacies, are of opinion, that if a sale of the said land should take place, there will not remain a considerable surplus after payment and satisfaction of the said claims and legacies.

Your committee find that the said John Booth became a citizen of this state, by taking the oaths prescribed for that purpose, on the fifth day of September, 1786.

Under all the circumstances of this case, your committee are induced to recommend that a law should pass, investing the said John Booth with the title in the said tract of land, upon his passing his bond, with security to be approved of by the orphans court of Washington county, conditioned for the payment of all claims, debts and legacies, against the estates of the said Bartholomew, William, and Robert Booth, and against the estate of each of them; saving and preserving to the said William and Robert Booth, and each of them, if they should hereafter appear, their right and title to the said tract of land, except such part as may be sold for the satisfaction of the aforesaid debts and legacies.

Your committee recommend that the said John Booth should be authorized, after passing his bond as aforesaid, with the approbation of the orphans court of Washington county aforesaid, to sell absolutely so much and such part of the said tract of land as they may direct, for the purpose aforesaid, and on such reasonable terms of payment as the said orphans court shall prescribe.

Your committee decline to report on the petition of Alexander Robinson and Priscilla his wife, the petitioners having requested to withdraw the said petition.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. KNAPP, clk.

Which was read the first and second time, concurred with, and leave given to bring in a bill pursuant thereto. ORDERED, That Mr. Potts, Mr. Duvall and Mr. Sprigg, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of John Beall, former sheriff and collector of taxes in Prince-George's county, beg leave to report, that they are of opinion that the said John Beall has suffered considerably from the negligence of his deputies, or by their receiving the taxes and converting the same to their own use; that they think it just and proper that a law pass, empowering the commissioners of the tax of Prince-George's county to adjust the accounts between the said John Beall and any of his deputies, and to carry their order and determination into effect by *fiere facias* or *capias ad satisfaciendum*. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

T. PURDY, clk.

Which was read.

A petition from Thomas Beatty, collector of Frederick county, praying to be allowed a further time to complete his collections, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Potts, Mr. Comegys and Mr. O'Neale, to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Chapman appeared in the house.

A petition from William Banckes, late collector of Caroline county, stating, that he hath collected and paid all the money levied in said county for the year 1786, but not having paid the same within the time limited by law, he is subject to the payment of interest, and praying to be released from the payment of interest; was preferred and read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition of Samuel Thomas.

A petition from Nicholas Merryman, of Baltimore county, setting forth, that he was appointed in 1774 one of the supervisors of the public roads for Baltimore county, and that by mistake he had paid into the public treasury the sum of £. 20 16 3 sterling more than he had received, and praying to