

The bill to facilitate the draining of land in the several counties therein mentioned, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Jones.

A petition from Henry C. Baker, of Cæcil county, late an officer in the Maryland-line, praying to be allowed half pay, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. M'Pherson, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Oldham, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a supplement to an act, entitled, An act to dispose of the reserved lands westward of Fort Cumberland, in Washington county, and to fulfil the engagements made by this state to the officers and soldiers of the Maryland line in the service of the United States: ORDERED, That Mr. Stone, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tilghman, and Mr. Hughes, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

The bill respecting the marriage of Hercules Courtenay, of Baltimore-town, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate by Mr. Owings.

John Smith, Esquire, from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following message:

BY THE SENATE, NOVEMBER 12, 1790.

GENTLEMEN,
EXPERIENCE has evinced that there are some defects in the constitution and form of government of this state. If these defects are pointed out and corrected by one or more acts, to be published and submitted to the consideration and judgment of our constituents, previous to the next election of senators and delegates, it is probable that the good sense of the people would approve the proposed alterations, and would instruct their representatives to pass the acts alluded to at the next session.

If this opinion be well founded, and you should concur in it, we think it proper that a joint committee of both houses should be appointed to revise the constitution, and to report such amendments of it as may be agreed upon by the committee, and to bring in one or more bills for that salutary purpose. Presuming that you will not object to the appointment of such a committee, we have named John Henry, Charles Carroll, William Hemsley, Richard Ridgely, and Nicholas Hammond, Esquires, to meet the members who may be nominated by your house.

By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk.

Which was read.

A petition from sundry inhabitants of the Nottingham and Welch Tract lands, of Cæcil county, praying that the treasurer of the western shore may be authorized to issue certificates for the overplus of payments made by them to the late intendant; a petition from Joseph Clark, of the city of Annapolis, praying a compensation for certain services by him rendered to the state; and a memorial from Joseph Watson, Robert Roberts, and Richard Magarity, of Cæcil county, praying that they may have the benefit of the act for the instalment of certain debts due to the state; severally endorsed; "By the senate, November 13, 1790: Read and referred to the consideration of the house of delegates."

"By order,

H. RIDGELY, jun. clk."

Which were read, and the petition from sundry inhabitants of the Nottingham and Welch Tract lands referred to Mr. R. Bond, Mr. M'Mechen, and Mr. Stone, to consider and report thereon.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to enable the inhabitants of Saint John's parish, in Queen-Anne's and Caroline counties, to elect vestrymen and churchwardens for said parish at any time before Easter Monday next. ORDERED, That Mr. Harris, Mr. Seney and Mr. Downes, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a bill to alter the time of holding November county court in Worcester county. ORDERED, That Mr. Martin, Mr. Chaille and Mr. Holland, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Mr. Tilghman, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of the people called Quakers, report, that they have considered the subject of it, and think it well entitled to the serious consideration of the legislature. Your committee are of opinion that the prohibition of the manumission of slaves by last will and testament, is an unwarrantable infringement of the right of property, and therefore recommend that the third section of an act, entitled, An act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free, or the manumission of slaves by last will and testament, be repealed, with a provision securing the right of creditors.

Your committee are further of opinion, that to punish children for the sins of their parents, is contrary to the principles of justice and the spirit of christianity, and recommend that the 26th, 27th and 28th sections of the act relating to slaves and servants, passed in the year 1715, so far as the same respect the issue mentioned in the said sections, be repealed, saving all rights already acquired under the same; and that an act, entitled, A supplementary act to the act, entitled, An act relating to servants and slaves, passed in the year 1728, so far as respects the issue therein mentioned, be repealed, saving as aforesaid.

Your committee beg leave further to report, that they think the honour and justice of the state materially concerned in inflicting exemplary punishment on a practice which there is reason to think has lately prevailed, of exporting negroes and mulattoes entitled to freedom, by fraud or violence, out of the state.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

T. PURDY, clk.

Which was read.

ORDERED, That the bill to establish a bank in Baltimore-town, have a second reading on Tuesday next.