

covery whereof sundry suits are already commenced, and now depending, not only against the petitioner, on his separate account, but as surviving partner aforesaid; that the said petitioner is now absent from this state, but is expected, and probably will return in a few days, and be subject to arrest and confinement immediately on his arrival. Your committee therefore are of opinion, the petitioner ought to be relieved (it appearing to your committee to be his wish and intention to do equal justice to all his creditors) upon the following terms, viz. That a law be passed empowering the petitioner to deliver up, on oath, to certain trustees, all the property of the said partnership in his possession, to be applied to the payment of the partnership debts, and all the separate property of the petitioner, to be applied to the payment of his separate creditors, and the surplus of his separate property, after the payment of his separate creditors, to be applied to the payment of the creditors of the said partnership; the said law to take place only upon his arrival in this state, and delivering into the hands of such trustees, upon oath, all his property, as well separate as that which he possesses belonging to the said partnership of Ridley and Pringle. All which your committee submit to the consideration of the honourable house.

By order,

J. WINCHESTER, jun. clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Smith, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a bill, entitled, An act to regulate auctions in Baltimore-town; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

ORDERED, That Mr. Rochester and Mr. Burges be added to the committee appointed to bring in a bill to straighten and amend the public roads in the several counties therein mentioned.

Mr. Carnan, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry insolvent debtors, report, that they have taken into consideration the petition of William Bagford, a languishing prisoner in the gaol of Baltimore county, and the counter petition of Ruth Cockey, and have examined the allegations and proofs exhibited with the same, and find that the said Bagford was committed to the gaol of Baltimore county in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, where he has remained in close confinement ever since; that it appears he did not owe above £. 200 sterling, and did petition the justices of Baltimore county court for the benefit of the insolvent law, and that Ruth Cockey, one of his creditors, did allege that the said Bagford had fraudulently made away with his property, in order to defraud his creditors, and upon hearing the testimony of the parties, the said court did adjudge that the said Bagford was not entitled to the benefit of the said law.

Your committee further report, that the said Bagford is a poor distressed man, and has a wife and large family of small children, who are chiefly supported by his labour, and who are now in wretched circumstances. Your committee, having considered the deplorable situation of the said Bagford's family, do commiserate his fate, although they wish to discountenance all manner of fraud by insolvent debtors, as they apprehend it is too often practised by them.

They do recommend that a law should pass directing an issue to be made up and tried in Baltimore county court, by a jury of the county, whether the said Bagford has not complied with the requisites of the act for the relief of insolvent debtors under £. 200 sterling; and if the said jury should acquit him, that he receive the benefit of the said act, but if they should find him guilty, that then he should not receive the benefit of the said act.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. WINCHESTER, jun. clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Carnan, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry insolvent debtors, report, that they have examined the petition and certificates of William Gillis, of Somerset county, and find that he has given due public notice of his intention to petition the legislature, and that he is in actual custody of the sheriff, and it appears that he is not able to pay his debts, and that he must remain in close confinement, unless relieved by the legislature.

Your committee therefore recommend the above petitioner to the merciful interposition of the legislature, by passing a law to discharge him from all debts, contracts and agreements, heretofore contracted or made, upon his delivering up all his property to the use of his creditors.

All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. WINCHESTER, jun. clk.

Which was read the first and second time and concurred with.

Mr. Carnan, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following report: THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Dennis Griffith, and the counter petition thereon, beg leave to report, that they have considered the same, and are of opinion that a law should pass to secure the said Griffith from future confinement for his debts heretofore contracted, but that his present and future property should be liable to his creditors. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. WINCHESTER, jun. clk.

Which was read.

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of George French, report, that a patent was granted to the petitioner on the 27th April and 24th October, 1776, for the land called the Vale, containing sixteen hundred and twenty-seven acres, and on the 21st day of April, 1775, for a tract called