

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

THE committee to whom was referred the petition of Ignatius Boone, of Prince-George's county, report, that they have taken the same into consideration, and are of opinion that the prayer thereof ought not to be granted. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

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

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

THE committee to whom was referred the reports of the agent of this state, report, that they have taken the said reports, and the papers accompanying them, into consideration, and they find the business within the department of the said agent to be in the situation stated by him to the legislature; that there still remain debts to be collected, and confiscated property to a considerable amount undisposed of; and that sales have been delayed for the reasons mentioned in the agent's second report, and the delaying of which will, in the opinion of the committee, tend to the benefit of the state. It appears to the committee, that the agent has been attentive to the interest of the state, and they are of opinion that an agent ought to be appointed for the ensuing year. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

J. W. KING, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Lloyd, from the committee, brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following instructions: To the honourable GEORGE DENT, JOHN F. MERCER, URIAH FORREST, THOMAS SPRIGG, SAMUEL SMITH, GABRIEL CHRISTIE, WILLIAM HINDMAN, and WILLIAM V. MURRAY.

GENTLEMEN,

THE extreme distress of the citizens of French St. Domingo, driven by the horrors of war, and the destruction of their capital, to seek an asylum in our country, imposed a heavy and unequal burthen on the citizens of this state, and particularly on the inhabitants of the town of Baltimore. To remove the inequality of the expence incurred in the support of these unfortunate exiles, and to prevent their future sufferings, induced the legislature of this state to interpose in their behalf, by granting the sum of five hundred dollars per week, from the first day of December, instant, to the second day of February ensuing; this period was fixed, under an apprehension that congress would, before the expiration of that time, be in session, and that a regard to the sentiments of humanity, as well as national character, would induce them to make effectual provision for their support, while their peculiar situation required it.

The relieving of part of the citizens of this state from an unequal proportion of the expences necessary to preserve those unfortunate people, appeared to us to be a duty incumbent on the representatives of the people of Maryland; to us then it equally appears to be the duty of the representatives of the people of America, to relieve this state from its disproportionate share of the burthen. We wish to call your attention particularly to this subject, and request that you will use your utmost influence to obtain from the United States relief for those people, and restitution of the surplus advanced by this state.

To the honourable JOHN HENRY and RICHARD POTTS.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the General Assembly of Maryland, your immediate constituents, call your attention to a subject affecting to humanity, and involving the interests of this state. The horrors of war, some time in June last, forced a very large body of the citizens of French St. Domingo to quit their country, and seek shelter in the hospitable states of America, their allies; a body of near twelve hundred arrived at Baltimore, destitute of every necessary of life, without money, and unskilled in our language.

The charity of individuals (especially those of Baltimore-town,) furnished present relief to their wants; but private beneficence was unequal to such great exertions, and a just regard to Baltimore-town, as a part of the state of Maryland, called on us to relieve the citizens of that town from the pressure of so great a burthen. The interference of this general assembly became necessary to preserve the existence of at least three hundred and fifty old men, women and children, who had no other dependence until the meeting of congress, the period for which was, at that time, from a variety of reasons, extremely uncertain. For these reasons a grant of five hundred dollars a week, from the first day of December, instant, to the second day of February next, was made by this general assembly for their immediate support. We are informed that other states have made similar grants for the temporary support of exiles from the same country. They are in this country the most helpless of all beings, and humanity, and a just regard to national character, forbid that we should suffer any of our fellow-citizens to perish for want, while the God of nature showers down plenty on us with a bountiful hand. We need not recall to your minds what glory Great-Britain alone, to say nothing of other countries, has acquired, by affording assistance to unhappy wretches who have heretofore sought protection in that country. We need not instance the case of the refugees, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes—The Palatines—And above all others, the Lisbon grant; nor need we recite to you the distresses which oppressed those French citizens at their arrival, and still continue to bear them down with complicated calamities. To one of the representatives from this state in congress we refer you for further information on this affecting part of the subject. We are sensible that in the cause of humanity you want no other inducements than your own feelings to render you active, and