

A petition from John Mummy, of Baltimore county, counter to the petition of Henry Peters, was preferred, read, and referred to the committee appointed on the petition to which it is counter.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill annulling the marriage of George Sampson and Pamela Sampson, endorsed "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. And the bill to lay out and open a certain road in Cæcil county, endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendment;" which amendment was read. And the following message:

By the S E N A T E, December 2, 1806.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,*

IN your message of yesterday you inform us, that believing the business of your house can be acted upon by the fifteenth of this month, you propose to close the session on that day. We, being fully impressed with the opinion that all the business of the session may be finally acted upon by that time, most readily concur in your proposition of rising on that day.

By order,

T. ROGERS, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Shaaff, from the committee, delivers to the speaker the following report:

THE committee to whom was referred that part of the communication from the executive which relates to the resolutions of the legislature of Tennessee, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, report, that they have reflected upon the subject with all that deliberation which the solemn act of one state in the union ought always to receive from the legislature of another.

The object of these resolutions is to change the constitution of the United States in such a manner as to permit congress to prohibit the importation of slaves into these United States, prior to the time at which congress would be authorised to exercise that power agreeably to the terms of the constitution as it now exists.

The authority of the congress on this subject is contained in the ninth section of the first article of the constitution of the general government, by which it is declared, that "the migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the congress prior to the year eighteen hundred and eight; but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation not exceeding ten dollars for each person." It is also provided by the fifth article of the said constitution, "That no amendment, which may be made prior to the year eighteen hundred and eight, shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article."

The committee, without expressing any opinion as to the power of amending the constitution of the United States in the manner contemplated by the legislature of Tennessee, think that it would be inexpedient at this time to instruct the senators and representatives of this state in the congress of the United States, upon the subject submitted for their consideration, however desirable the measure may be to prohibit any further importation of slaves into these United States, because the period has nearly arrived at which the congress, without such amendment, will have full authority to legislate upon the subject, and to prohibit the importation of slaves into these United States, if the adoption of that measure should be thought beneficial.

The committee are of opinion, that the constitution of the United States is of such high importance to the happiness of the citizens of America, that it ought not to be changed unless some urgent necessity should call for an alteration, and that in the present instance such necessity does not exist.

The committee, for these reasons, think that the resolutions from the state of Tennessee ought not to meet with the concurrence of this legislature; they therefore submit the following resolutions for the consideration of the house.

THE resolutions of the legislature of Tennessee, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, by which the congress may be permitted to prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States, having been communicated by the governor of Maryland to this general assembly, and having been maturely deliberated on, RESOLVED, That in the opinion of the general assembly of Maryland, it would at this time be inexpedient to adopt the amendment proposed by the state of Tennessee, the period being nearly arrived when the congress of the United States will have full power, without any change of the constitution, to prohibit the importation of slaves, if such a prohibition shall be thought beneficial.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the governor of this state be and he is hereby requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the governor of the state of Tennessee.

By order,

L. GASSAWAY, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. R. Steuart, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to authorise the sale of certain lands belonging to the estate of Stephen Wilson, late of the city of Baltimore, deceased; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Comegys, from the committee, delivers to the speaker a bill, entitled, An act to provide by law a direct mode by which information shall be conveyed to persons appointed to office, by the executive, of their respective appointments, and for other purposes therein mentioned; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

A petition from William Booth, of Baltimore county, praying to be divorced from his wife, was preferred, read, and referred to Mr. Harryman, Mr. Aisquith, Mr. M. Brown, Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Little, to consider and report thereon.