

value of lands would necessarily be enhanced beyond doubt or experiments, and thus the better to enable the frugal and industrious landholder to bear the burthens of taxation whenever it may come upon them. The committee cannot think it necessary further to dwell upon the inexpediency and impropriety of granting a bounty to foster the growth of silk which is only a laudable experiment. The committee express an earnest hope to see their fellow citizens successful in bringing into general use the growth of silk, and trust that if it has claims upon the liberality of the State by reason of its importance, advantages and profits, that individual enterprize will test its usefulness, and rich returns will crown the labors of those who may direct their attention, their means and their time to its culture. Your committee have no reason to doubt the adaptation of our climate and soil to the growth of silk, and indulge the hope at no distant day to class it amongst our profitable productions.

All which is respectfully submitted,

THOS. HOPE, Chairman.

Which was twice read and concurred in.

Mr. Sutton submitted the following message which was read, assented to and sent to the senate.

*By the House of Delegates, March 9, 1840.*

*Gentlemen of the Senate:*

We herewith return to your honorabie body the bill entitled, an act for the better regulation of the free negro and mulatto children of this State, which was rejected by your honorable body on the 6th instant. We would not ask your honorable body at this late period of the session to reconsider and pass said bill, did we not deem it of great importance if not to all, at least to several of the counties in the State.

By order, John Nick. Watkins, Cl'k.

Mr. Ridgely reported a bill entitled, an act to appoint the sheriff or the collectors of public taxes for Anne Arundel county and Howard district in said county, the collectors of primary school district taxes in said county and Howard district;

Read the first and by special order the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

Mr. Spence reported a bill entitled, a supplement to an act entitled an act to quiet possessions and to prevent suits at law;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Foard reported a bill entitled, an act to record and make valid a deed therein mentioned;

Read the first time and referred to the committee on grievances and courts of justice.

Mr. Simmons reported a bill entitled, an act supplementary to the several acts relating to the regulation of the sale of spirituous liquors in this State;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Wilmer, chairman of the committee on claims, made the following report: