

Mr. Hope presented the petition of 132 citizens of Harford county, complaining of the repeated suspensions of specie payments by the banks, and charging those institutions with a reckless disregard of solemn obligations; a wilful dereliction of duty; an utter contempt of public opinion, and further complaining of the demoralizing influence which the licentious conduct of those chartered monopolies has had upon society, and praying that the officers of those corporations may be restrained by severe penal enactment, and that the charters of such banks as have become forfeited, may be annulled, and that the others be compelled to resume the payment of their debts in specie.

Read and referred to the committee already raised upon that subject.

Mr. Graves presented the petition of Peter B. Lucas and others, praying an act of incorporation for the Neptune Temperance Beneficial Society of Baltimore.

Read and referred to the committee on Corporations, hereafter to be appointed.

Mr. Biser presented the petition of sundry citizens of Frederick county, praying the passage of an act to incorporate Adam Lodge No. 35, of Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Read and referred to Messrs. Biser, Schley and Staley.

The Speaker laid before the house the following communications:

Reports from the clerks of the courts of Dorchester, Montgomery, Allegany and Frederick counties, and that of the clerk of the Court of Appeals for the Western Shore, showing the number of days each judge attended.

Read and referred to the committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, to be hereafter appointed;

Also reports from the clerks of the courts of Dorchester, Allegany and Frederick counties, showing the amount of money paid into the treasury;

Read and referred to the committee on Ways and Means, hereafter to be appointed.

On motion of Mr. Graves,

Leave was granted to Messrs. Graves, Hamilton and Biser, to bring in a bill to repeal the act of 1841, ch. 155, directing the manner in which the agents to represent the State in all Joint Stock Companies, in which the State has an interest, shall hereafter be appointed.

On motion of Mr. Buchanan,

Ordered, That a select committee of seven members be appointed by the speaker, whose duty it shall be to ascertain whether some retrenchment cannot be introduced into the public expenditures of the State, without detriment to the public service.

Whereupon, Messrs. Buchanan, Owens of Anne Arundel, Tuck, Culbreth, Dennis, Gallagher and Nicols of Caroline, were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Hammond,