

ported a bill entitled, an act to incorporate the Irving Literary Association of Baltimore;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Hollman, chairman of the committee on Claims, made the following

#### REPORT:

The committee on Claims, to which was referred the memorial C. M. Thruston, Jacob Hollingsworth and Charles B. Fisk, praying that the sum of \$2737.22, may be awarded them, to indemnify them for certain judgments obtained against them in the Circuit Court of the United States, beg leave to report, that they have given the memorial all the consideration its importance demanded. They have been unable to discover even the shadow of a claim against the State for indemnity, much less one founded either in justice or law.

The case is simply this: A riot occurs on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and the military are called upon to seize and disarm the rioters, and to suppress the riot; that instead of confining themselves within the limits of their authority, they unlawfully pull down such houses as they thought proper to destroy, and give to the flames the goods of such persons as in their judgment had justly incurred their displeasure. Those whose property was destroyed, appeal to the judicial tribunals for redress, and there, where all the facts were carefully inquired into, the conduct of the memorialists was adjudged to be illegal, and that because of it they should pay the damages which they had occasioned.

Your committee deem it necessary to call the attention of the House to some of the provisions of the "Bill of Rights" of the State, so that it may be distinctly seen that the memorialists, in destroying property, acted in defiance of the constitutional rights of the citizen. The 21st article declares "that no freeman ought to be taken, or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, or deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land."

The 27th article of the Bill of Rights is in these words, "that in all cases, and at all times, the military ought to be under strict subordination to, and control of the civil power." The 6th amendment to the Constitution of the United States secures to every citizen of the United States, what the 19th article of the Bill of Rights of Maryland secures to every citizen of Maryland. The latter is in these words, "that in all criminal prosecutions every man hath a right to be informed of the accusation against him; to have a copy of the indictment, or charge, in due time (if required,) to prepare for his defence; to be allowed counsel; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have process for his witnesses, to examine the witnesses for and against on oath; and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent he ought not to be found guilty."

It seems that in defiance of all these constitutional provisions,