

Friday, February 3, 1826.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

The resolution settling the penalty of the bond to be given by the treasurer, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Tyson presents a petition from Ann Ryan, for a divorce; referred to the standing committee on that subject.

Mr. Duvall presents a petition from the volunteer cavalry of Anne-Arundel county, praying that the bill, and regimental meetings of cavalry, may be discontinued; referred to the committee on the militia.

Mr. S. R. Smith presents a petition from Mary Hall and daughter, for support; referred to the standing committee.

Mr. Howard from the committee of ways and means, delivers the following report:

The committee of ways and means, to whom was referred the communication from the honourable Samuel Smith, senator in congress, relative to the claim of Maryland against the United States, for interest on money borrowed to aid in the prosecution of the late war, beg leave to report—

That on the 13th of April 1824, the president of the United States transmitted to the senate, a message, together with sundry documents, illustrative of the claim of the state of Virginia for interest on money borrowed by the state, for the purpose of aiding in the prosecution of the war, and which claim was not allowable, "according to the uniform decisions of the accounting officers of the government," in the exercise of their ordinary powers.

The attention of congress, being thus specially called to the subject, an act was passed to authorise the payment of interest due to the state of Virginia upon sums, which the general government, by repayment, had admitted to have been expended for its use, and the interest upon which was to be calculated up to the period of such repayment, upon the proviso, that the state had itself been compelled to pay interest. Upon the principle thus adopted in the case of Virginia, the state of Maryland is entitled to the receipt of a very considerable sum, and no doubt can be entertained, that the general government will be disposed to measure out equal justice to all the states. It appears from the report of the treasurer of the western shore, that the state of Maryland was obliged, from her peculiarly vulnerable position, to contract loans to the amount of more than four hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of resisting the predatory incursions of the enemy, whose ships were almost continually in her extensive waters. Upon these loans interest was paid, and the general government, by the repayment of more than two hundred and eighty thousand dollars, have admitted that the expenditure was made "for the use and benefit of the United States," and that consequently our claim is wholly within the rule adopted with reference to Virginia.

It appears, by the documents before the committee, that the secretary of war called upon the third auditor of the treasury for an estimate of the amount that would be due to the several states, "were the principle of paying interest to be assumed by the United States." In answer to this call, the auditor submitted an estimate, which was prepared, as he states, "from a very cursory view of the accounts, and, in a great measure, upon supposed data, and consequently entitled to but little reliance." In this estimate the state of Maryland is placed second to