

Mr. Witmer presented a petition signed by two hundred and thirty citizens of Washington county, praying the passage of an act authorising the Botanical or Thompsonian System of medical practice to be used and administered by persons not members of the medical faculty, or exempting the practitioners thereof from the penalties and disabilities provided by the acts of Assembly;

Which was read and referred to Messrs. Witmer, Kerr, and Shower.

Mr. Biser presented a petition of Sophia Lange, of Frederik county, praying to be divorced from her husband Constantine Lange;

Which was read and referred to the committee on divorces.

The clerk of the Council delivered the following communication from the Executive:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Annapolis, Jan. 8. 1838.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

Your order of the 6th inst. requesting the Governor and Council to inform you "of any claims against the State, which may have been made within the last two years by the clerk of the council or the messenger of the council, for fees, perquisites or compensation of any kind beyond their regular salaries; and of the sums paid out of the Treasury or Executive contingent fund, either to the said clerk or messenger, during the time aforesaid, beyond their regular salaries, and the law or authority under which such sum (if any) were allowed," was laid before me on the day of its date, after you had adjourned, by the clerk of the council.

At the session of the council in June last, Mr. Culbreth, the clerk, being confined to his house by indisposition, put into my hands an account against the State for recording commissions of civil officers, amounting to \$4,625 25, and referred me to the act of 1805, chapter 65, section 50, under which he claims payment thereof. The section of the act is in the following words:—And be it enacted, that all commissions which issue to civil officers shall be recorded by the clerk of the council, in a book to be furnished and kept by him for that purpose, and he shall be allowed the same fees for his trouble that have heretofore been allowed to the clerk of the general court, to be paid at such times as the Governor and Council may think proper, by orders drawn on the Treasury of the Western Shore. He also placed in my hands with his account, several accounts of the late Ninian Pinkney, his predecessor in office for similar services, which had been allowed and paid to Mr. P., and he requested me to submit his account to the consideration of the council, which I did. Upon a hasty examination of the law under which Mr. Culbreth claimed the payment of his account, and the several laws fixing the *regular* salary of the clerk of the council, as well while Mr. Pinkney was clerk, as since, Mr. Culbreth has held that office, there appeared but little, if any doubt, of Mr. Culbreth's account being a legal claim, which the act of 1805