

clerks of the commissioners of the tax with a list of military pensioners residing in their respective counties, and that the executive obtain from the clerks of the commissioners of the tax a certificate of the amount of property assessed to each person residing in their respective counties, who are now receiving military pensions, and lay the same before this house.

Mr. Boyle presents a memorial from William Kilty, Thomas Harris, and John N. Watkins, stating they had finished the compilation of the laws; which was read and referred to Messrs Boyle, Marriott and Duvall.

Mr. Holbrook reports a bill, entitled, An act to annul the marriage of Joseph Price and Sarah his wife. Mr. J. P. Kennedy reports a bill, entitled, An act to enlarge the powers of the levy court for Baltimore county in the cases therein mentioned. Mr. Cockey reports a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Isaac Lyon of Frederick county. And Mr. Barney reports a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act incorporating the Commercial and Farmers Bank of Baltimore; which were read.

On motion by Mr. Boyle Leave given to bring in a bill entitled, An act to reduce into one the several laws to direct descents. Ordered, That Messrs Boyle, J. P. Kennedy and Marriott, report the same.

The house adjourns until to morrow morning 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, December, 13, 1820.

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

On motion by Mr. J. P. Kennedy, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, A further supplement to an act, entitled, An act to provide for the administration of justice in cases of crimes and misdemeanors in the city and precincts of Baltimore. Ordered, That Messrs. J. P. Kennedy, Boyle and Stoddert, report the same.

Mr. Boyle presents a petition from Elizabeth L. Gassaway, of the city of Annapolis; which was read and referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

Mr. Barney reports a bill ceding to the United States the jurisdiction of the state of Maryland in, to and over, certain lands on North Point and Bodkin Island at the mouth of the river Patapsco, and for other purposes; which was read.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the order proposed by Mr. Alderson, relative to pensioners.

On motion by Mr. Alderson, the question was put, That the following be received as a substitute: Ordered, That the treasurer of the western shore transmit to the clerks of the commissioners of tax in the respective counties of this state, a list of the military pensioners, and that it be the duty of said clerks to forward a certificate of the amount of property assessed to any one or more of said pensioners, on the books of said commissioners of tax, to the clerk of the house of delegates without delay, and the clerk shall lay the same before this house? Resolved in the affirmative.

The question was then put, That the house assent to the order? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Marriott presents a petition from Robert W. Kent, of Anne Arundel county, praying permission to remove slaves into this state; which was read and referred to Messrs Marriott, Wyvill and T. W. Hall. Also a petition from Mary Wells, of the city of Annapolis; which was read and referred to the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims.

On motion by Mr. Boyle, the following message was read, assented to, and sent to the senate:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, December 13, 1820.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

Yesterday a message was forwarded by this house, to the honourable the senate, informing that we were prepared to proceed to the election of a register of wills for Anne Arundel county at half past one o'clock P. M. It was the ultimate design of this branch of the general assembly to have gone into the election of registers of wills for the several counties, wherein vacancies had occurred during the recess, as speedily as possible, and had commenced this business by requesting your body to go into the election for one of those counties on yesterday. The house of delegates continued in session until long after the hour appointed, and received no answer to the message which had been sent, which was on your part a tacit declension of the contemplated choice. It is with regret that we again call the attention of the senate to a subject of so much importance. By the constitution of this state it is declared, "that there be a register of wills appointed for each county, who shall be commissioned by the governor, on the joint recommendation of the senate and house of delegates, and that upon the death, resignation, disqualification, or removal out of the county by any register of wills in the recess of the general assembly the governor with the advice of the council may appoint and commission a fit and proper person to such vacant office, to hold the same until the meeting of the general assembly." It is with regret that the house of delegates have discovered a disinclination on your part to proceed to a joint recommendation of some person to fill the vacancy which has occurred in the office of register of wills for Anne Arundel county. Under the powers vested in the executive, by the constitution, appointments have been made, but the senate must be sensible that these appointments ceased with the meeting of the general assembly."

Deeming this a subject of the most important concern to the good people of this state, we have thought it necessary to call your attention once more to it. The register of wills for Anne Arundel county is not only the keeper of the county records, but the conservator of the records of the late prerogative office, in which office are carefully preserved all the last wills and testaments down to the period of the revolution, with many other important papers and documents.

This then is not an appointment of mere locality, but of general interest and concern. In consequence of this appointment not being made, administration, testamentary, and guardians bonds, may be running out of date, and some important ejectment cause, in some of the counties, lost or postponed for want of a will to complete the title.

We know of no reason for its postponement; every member of each house is attending at the seat of government, and we hope that the senate will, on reflection, consent to a joint recommendation of some person to the governor, to be commissioned as register of wills for Anne Arundel county. The house of delegates therefore propose to the senate, immediately to ballot for some person to be jointly recommend-

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