

The act supplementary to the act for amending and reducing into system the laws and regulations concerning last wills and testaments, the duties of executors, administrators and guardians, and the rights of orphans and other representatives of deceased persons, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

On motion by Mr. Barney, Ordered, That William Dickinson be and he is hereby appointed a director on the part of this state for the ensuing year in the Bank of Baltimore.

On motion by Mr. J. Forrest, Leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to authorise the levy court of Prince-George's county to levy a sum of money for building a wharf in the town of Queen-Anne in said county. Ordered, That Messrs. J. Forrest, R. T. Hall and Lyles, report the same.

Mr. T. Kennedy presents a petition from Daniel Brewer, of Washington county, praying to be released from the support of a child which he states has been falsely sworn to be his; which was read and referred to Messrs. T. Kennedy, Bowles and Cross.

The further supplement to an act, entitled, An act to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road leading to Cumberland, and for the extension of the charters of the several banks in the city of Baltimore, and for other purposes, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate delivers the engrossed bills, No. 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, with the paper bills thereof, which were severally read, assented to, and returned to the senate. The resolution in favour of William Jacobs, endorsed 'dissented from.' The bill authorising William C. Summerville, of Saint Mary's county, to remove certain negro slaves from the District of Columbia into this state, endorsed 'will pass.' Ordered to be engrossed. The bill to facilitate the collection of the county charges in Dorchester county, endorsed 'will not pass.' The bill authorising Robert W. Kent, of Anne Arundel county, to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland, endorsed 'will pass with the proposed amendment;' which amendment was read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. And a bill entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the distribution of a certain fund for the purpose of establishing free schools in the several counties therein mentioned; which was read.

Mr. J. P. Kennedy presents the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of the directors of the Maryland Penitentiary, respectfully beg leave to report—

That they have examined in detail the subject submitted to their consideration, and have carefully investigated the several documents, furnished for the information of the legislature, upon the condition of that institution. They find that a debt has accrued under the management of the former directors, which on the 31st of November 1819, amounted to \$39,126 25. That of this debt, in the course of the last year, was paid the sum of \$6,900 80, from the current profits of the institution, thus reducing the amount of their debt to \$32,225 45, to which is to be added the interest payable yearly, making the actual amount of the debt with this addition, about \$34,000 00. That this debt grew out of circumstances beyond the controul of the former directors, and from a state of things which, your committee conceive, must exonerate them from any charge of mismanagement. It may be traced, first, to the natural embarrassments to which a new institution is peculiarly exposed in organizing and reducing to a profitable condition the labours of a large number of artizans, untaught in their trades, and forced into occupations which it was impossible to foresee would be advantageous or otherwise to the state; secondly, to a mistaken policy, which was early adopted, of farming out the labour of the penitentiary, and vending its products through a city store; thirdly, to an unavoidable want of experience in the government and management of an extensive internal police, the true character of which could only be understood by long attention and frequent experiments; and lastly, to a much more powerful cause than any yet mentioned, the sudden depression of trade, which instantaneously affected a large portion of manufacturing stock, then on hand, which had been purchased at the high prices of a period, when the forced and unnatural prosperity of our country had communicated a deceitful value to every article of commerce.

The very laudable and assiduous zeal of the present board of directors, has been steadily applied to relieve the institution from incumbrances, imposed upon it by the unfavourable circumstances above alluded to. They have completely reformed every evil which has met their view, by introducing such wholesome amendmen's into the whole system, as not only have invigorated the weakened powers of the establishment, but have also brought it to a state of productiveness, which must, in a few years, under the same discipline, pay off their present debts, and render it an object of actual gain to the state; thereby even surpassing the most sanguine expectations which were entertained at its formation. Upon this subject the reports before your committee are of so satisfactory a character that they do not hesitate to believe, that the institution, under its present regulations, will produce a certain profit of, at least, 6 or 7000 dollars per annum. Your committee, however, conceive it necessary, that some immediate provision should be made for the liquidation of the present debt, as a considerable portion of it has been incurred, as far back as the year 1816, and now exists under circumstances, which make its payment a subject affecting the character and reputation of the state. Indeed your committee conceive it to be a demand of imperious justice, that the creditors of this institution should have every security given to them, for a speedy adjustment of their debts, which a legislative pledge could communicate. It is essential also, in another point of view. The credit of the establishment has received a severe shock from its former embarrassments, and the effect of this has been, to deprive the present board of directors of the necessary means for supporting the institution, except those derived from the actual cash in their possession, and the assurances of their personal responsibility. Your committee need not say that they consider this a difficulty which calls for an immediate remedy. It is but common justice to those individuals, that every facility should be afforded them to extricate themselves from such an unpleasant predicament. The propriety of this measure is further recommended by the consideration, that the penitentiary system is at present brought to that degree of perfection, which enables the state to maintain its criminals not only without positive loss, but even with actual gain to itself. Public policy demands that the penal sanctions of the laws should be rigidly enforced even at heavy cost, and this has been, in almost every government, a subject of great expense. That it can be maintained in Maryland, without burdening the people, is a circumstance which must render the penitentiary a favourite institution, and present its claims to the state, with very high pretensions to an indulgent consideration.

In looking round for a resource against the evils above mentioned, your committee are happy to state,