

Mr. Barney reports a bill, entitled, An act to authorise Mary Young, of the city of Baltimore, to import and bring into this state from the state of Virginia, a certain negro slave; and a bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of Elizabeth Dickens, of the city of Baltimore; which were twice read passed, and sent to the senate. And a bill, entitled, An act for the benefit of Henry W. Fitzhugh, now of the city of Baltimore; which was read.

Mr. T. Kennedy reports a bill, entitled, An act to provide for such of the militia of Maryland as were wounded during the late war; which was read.

The resolution in favour of Edward Wright, was read the second time, assented to, and sent to the senate.

The report on the petition of Jeremiah T. Chase, Esq. was read the second time and concurred with. The bill to provide for the support and maintenance of debtors actually confined in prison, was read the second time.

On motion by Mr. Allen, the question was put, That the same lie on the table? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. J. P. Kennedy, Ordered, That the same have a second reading on Thursday next.

Mr. Hayward presents the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of John Leeds Kerr, the agent appointed "to liquidate and settle with the general government the necessary expenditures incurred by this state in providing for the common defence during the late war," with the accompanying documents, beg leave to report—That they have had the subject of the said memorial under their mature deliberation, and considering themselves to have been specially entrusted by the house of delegates with the necessary investigation of the nature and extent of the services rendered by the agent in the prosecution of the highly important interest of the state, which was committed to his charge, they have entered into a full examination of the various difficulties which have stood in the way of an adjustment of the state's claim, and of the course and proceedings pursued by the agent, in asserting and maintaining the justice of the state's demand, and in obviating the many difficulties and objections which presented themselves in different stages of the business. Your committee are fully satisfied, that the statements contained in the memorial of the agent, present a just and true representation of the intrinsic difficulties, both as to the principles and detail of his negotiation and adjustment of the state's claim, but by no means an adequate view of his anxious, expensive, and responsible services, nor of his private sacrifices, necessarily incurred, by the devotion of so much of his time and attention to this public concern during the last four years. The committee find, that the long period of time in which the agent has been engaged in obtaining an assumption of the state's claim by the general government, and in establishing those equitable principles for the adjustment, by the operation of which he has been enabled to bring the object of his appointment to so prosperous an issue, cannot in the slightest degree be charged upon him, but, on the contrary, was in the ordinary course of such applications to the general government, amidst its vast engagements, an event unavoidable. The committee find, that in the first effort of the agent to obtain an assumption of the state's claim, and to get it admitted to an audit in the United States treasury, as one recognized by the executive authority of the general government, he was met by an offer of a rule of assumption, which would have excluded every part of the expenses claimed to be reimbursed, except the trifling amount advanced for the pay and subsistence of the drafted militia, called out under the express recognition of the president, and some other expenses for services before expressly adopted by him; but the agent very properly declined acceding to such a principle of settlement, whereby he would have thrown the state's claim into the same uncertainty of its obtaining a special recognition by congress, which still exists as to that of another state; and prudently resolved on the patient, persevering course, by means of which, he at last induced the assumption of the claim by the executive authority of the United States, and has gradually brought into the state treasury almost the entire demand originally placed in his hands. The committee will not attempt to detail to the house the process by which either the general assumption of the state's claim was induced by the arguments and representations of the agent, in support of the peculiar case of the state, on a settlement of equitable rules of adjustment in the detail, was from time to time obtained by him as difficulties and objections arose, but beg leave to recall the particular attention of the house, as to the first, to the documents marked A and B, and, as to the last, to the document marked C, which have already been presented with the memorial of the agent. The committee are decidedly of opinion, that the agent in every respect, and at every stage of his engagement, has steadily pursued the only proper course, and used the only means, by which the claim of the state could have been brought to a successful issue, and that he has prudently conformed himself to the convenience and good pleasure of the war department in their progress in the adjustment, and has at no period omitted any fit occasion for urging a speedy settlement of the state's demand, nor spared himself any trouble or expense in attending to his engagement therein. The committee further find, from the documents referred to them, that the agent has at all times been attentive to the exigencies of the state, and has by his zealous solicitations obtained from the authority of the secretary of war, such advances of money, in part of the claim, during the progress of the adjustment, as the necessity of the state imperiously demanded. Your committee feel it a duty which they owe to the agent, to call the particular attention of the house to that large portion of the state's claim which was rejected or suspended by the accounting officer, and to the zealous and persevering exertions of the agent, during the last year, in obtaining from the secretary of war a relaxation of the strict rules of his department, in favour of the equitable claims of the state. The labour and services of the agent, in making a classification of the multifarious objections of the accounting officer, and his successful appeal to the secretary of war for the settlement of equitable rules of adjustment, fully appear in the document marked C, already before the house, from which it is shewn, that the exertions of the agent, during the last year, have reduced the items of the claim which were suspended or rejected by the accounting officer, according to his abstract thereof sent to the agent in January 1820, amounting to the sum of \$124,761 08, down to the small comparative amount of \$19,283 43.

When the committee took up the question of compensation submitted to the general assembly, by the memorial of the agent, and in reference thereto, brought into their mature consideration the importance and responsibility of the trust imposed in him, in being charged with the prosecution of a doubtful claim,