

The house according to the order of the day, proceeded to the second reading of the further supplement to the act entitled, An 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. On motion by Mr Dennis the question was put, That the first section be stricken out, fixing the age when males and females shall be competent to devise personal estates. Determined in the negative.

The blank relative to males was filled up with 21 years.

On motion by Mr B. S. Forrest, the question was put, That the blank relative to females, be filled up with 21 years? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr B. S. Forrest, the question was put on 18 years? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr Orrick the same was filled up with 16 years.

On motion by Mr B. S. Forrest, That the following be stricken out of the second section: "Provided that nothing in this act be construed to alter, change or affect the laws now in force with respect to noncupative wills" A motion was made by Mr. Nicholson, and the question put, That the same be referred to the next general assembly? Resolved in the affirmative.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill for the relief of William A. Schouffield, relating to certain land therein mentioned; endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments," which amendments were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. And the supplement to the act entitled, A further supplement to an act entitled, A supplement to an act entitled, An act to provide for the opening and extension of Pratt street in the city of Baltimore, endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. The supplement to the act relating to the removal of causes for trial within the sixth district, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments," which amendments were read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. The bill to make valid a lease therein mentioned, endorsed, "will not pass." The bill to ascertain and establish in the third district of Somerset county, a proper place of holding elections, endorsed, "will pass." Ordered to be engrossed. A bill entitled, A further additional supplement to an act entitled, An act to establish and incorporate a medical and chirurgical faculty in the state of Maryland, and a bill entitled, An act to regulate the removal of certain civil cases from one county to another, endorsed, "will pass;" which were read.

The house proceeded to the second reading of the supplement to the act entitled, An act relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned. On motion by Mr Moffett, the question was put, That the further consideration of the same be referred to the 1st of June next? Determined in the negative.

The house adjourns until 6 o'clock, P. M.

6 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The House met.

On motion by Mr Nabb, the following message was read and assented to:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, February 15, 1822.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We return you the bill entitled, An act for the benefit of William K. Austin, of Talbot county, and also transmit you the petition with the evidence accompanying it. We therefore hope, upon re-consideration your honorable body will pass the same.

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Clk.

Mr Forwood reports a bill entitled, An act for the benefit of the rector of Saint John's Parish, in Hurd and Baltimore counties; which was read.

The bill for the benefit of William West, was read the second time and passed.

The bill annulling the marriage of William Smith, and Sarah his wife, of Calvert county, was read the second time and passed.

Mr Marriott delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of Sally H. Hammond, and the counter memorial of Richard Ridgely, beg leave to report, That they have given to the same their best consideration, and however they might have been moved by the memorial of Sally H. Hammond to report the bill re committed to this committee, they find ample reason, in the facts and statements presented in the counter memorial, to withhold the same. It appears to your committee that the important question upon the decision of which should always have vested the case of Ridgely and Hammond, was ruled by the present court of appeals, each judge upon the bench assenting to the propriety of the said resolution. It is true, that before the court arrived at that point, a preliminary question presented itself, which it became the duty of the court to settle, to wit: whether the decision of the old court of appeals concluded the present court, and forbade any judgment in that case inconsistent with the opinion of the old court, which in a former suit involving the right to the lands in dispute had been pronounced; in other words, whether the law of that particular case should be peculiar to it, and repugnant to the general law of the land, operating upon all cases similar in their character, and only differing in the names of the parties.

Your committee would be indulged on this occasion in an expression of their high consideration of the court of appeals, by which the case of Ridgely and Hammond was decided, and they consider great strength added to the decision, by the fact, that it was in strict conformity to that of the chief justice of the state, made in the court below. But independent of the high character of the court, and the conviction we have of the justice of this decision in the case, your committee would suggest, that to gratify the petitioner in this instance, would authorize all persons hereafter disappointed in the decision of our own courts, to claim the right of vexatiously pursuing the successful and rightful suitor through the expensive windings of tribunals alien to our laws and institutions. Your committee would further suggest that neither the memorialist or her children are