

consequence of the encouragement held out to runaway negroes, by the citizens of Pennsylvania, and the personal violations, as well as the imminent danger to which owners of negroes have been, and may continue to be exposed, by the misguided feelings of some of the citizens of Pennsylvania, and that the said committee do report the result of their communications, and such further means as they may deem necessary to be adopted by this legislature; and on the part of this house we have named Messrs. A. Lee, Chauncey and Dennis, to join such gentlemen as may be named on the part of your honorable body.

By order,

JOHN BREWER, Clk.

On motion by Mr. John P. Kennedy, the question was put, That leave be given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to repeal the act, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, An act to incorporate a company for the purpose of cutting and making a canal between the river Delaware and Chesapeake bay? Resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered, That Messrs. John P. Kennedy, Archibald Lee and Wright, report the same.

Mr. Norris presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Harford county, praying the legislature to revise the laws, relating to the alms house in said county; read and referred to Messrs. Norris, Chauncey and Allen.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1823.

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

The message proposing a joint committee relative to absconding slaves, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Millard reports a bill, entitled, An act to authorise the levy court of St. Mary's county to assess a sum of money for the purposes therein mentioned; which was read.

On motion by Mr. Steele, leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate a company to make a wharf at the town of Cambridge, in Dorchester county. Ordered, that Messrs. Steele, Byus and Hooper, report the same.

Mr. Sheredine presents a petition from John Yeamans, of Cecil county, for a divorce; read and referred to the committee appointed on petitions of a similar nature.

Mr. Purviance delivers the following report:

The committee to whom were referred sundry petitions praying for divorces, beg leave to report—That they have had the same under their consideration, the subject committed to them was one of a peculiarly delicate character, and required from them all the considerations which they could bestow on it. It is a subject which has frequently commanded the attention of the legislature of Maryland, and divorces have often been granted by it. Your committee believes also, that there are cases in which legislatures may interpose to dissolve the tie of marriage, laid down as a principle which should govern them in their decision on the cases presented to them, that, whenever the fact of adultery was established by such proofs as could not be resisted, they would recommend such cases to the favorable consideration of the house. In conformity to this decision, they present the cases of Everiste Maury, Theophilus Russel and George Yeaman. Your committee had before them other cases, which, not coming under the principle laid down, they return to the house subject to its disposition, remarking at the same time, if the proofs had been sufficiently strong, some of them would have been recommended for partial divorces.

Which was read.

By order,

THOS. E. HAMBLETON, Clk

Also, a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of John Hill, of the city of Baltimore; which was twice read and will not pass. Also a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Catherine Jeyd, late of the city of Baltimore; which was twice read, passed, and sent to the senate. Also the bill to divorce captain Theophilus Russell, and Ann his wife; which was read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate; and the bill annulling the marriage of Everiste Maury and wife; on motion by Mr. Purviance, the same was recommitted.

The speaker announced Messrs. A. Lee, T. Kennedy, Thomas, Hoffman, Semmes, Stone, street, Stone, Steele and Wright, as the committee on the communication from the executive, and its accompanying documents, relative to the Potomac river.

On motion by Mr. Purviance, Ordered, that the bill to permit John Pict, of the city of Baltimore, to bring certain negroes from Virginia into this state, have a second reading on the 11th instant.

Mr. Gerry presents a petition from James C. McDowell, of Cecil county, for a special act of insolvency; read and referred to Messrs. Gerry, Sheredine and Parker.

Mr. Norris presents a petition from William Martin, of Harford county, praying he may hold real property; read and referred to Messrs. Norris, Allen and Chauncey.

Mr. Stansbury presents a petition from Caleb Merryman and John Merryman, of Benjamin, of Baltimore county, praying that the state may relinquish its interest in a judgment obtained against them as securities of William Merryman; read and referred to Messrs. Stansbury, Orrick, J. P. Kennedy, Worthington and Johnson.

The bill to repeal an act, entitled, An act to repeal an act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor of Queen Anne's county, was read the second time, and the question put, shall the said bill pass? The yeas and nays being required, appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE—Messrs. Millard, Garner, Orrick, Lloyd, Martin, Pratt, Farquhar, Allen, Whiteford, Hoffman—10.

NEGATIVE—Messrs. Speaker, Stone, Maddox, Ireland, Cannell, Massey, Hodges, Estep, Linthicum, Howard, Dalrymple, Weems, Smith, Skinner, Edelin, Rogerson, Stansbury, Worthington, T. Kemp, Dennis, Sheredine, Parker, Gerry, Culver, Weston, Hughes, Carroll, Ro-