

C. Sprigg, John M. Mahon, and John M'Henry, Esq's.—They also further report, that the respective county clerks of this state have neglected to comply with the provisions of the act of 1835, chap. 97. Sec. 20. A provision which they deem highly salutary and important, and therefore recommend the adoption of a resolution, directing that the attorney general of this state, and his deputies institute proceedings to recover the penalty attaching upon a failure of duty therein.

Your committee beg leave further to report that they have had under their consideration the Memorial of L. D. Teackle, of Somerset county, contesting the election of George A. Dashiell, a delegate returned for that county, and have bestowed upon it the maturest deliberation. They requested the attendance of the other gentlemen composing the Somerset delegation, for the purpose of deriving from them any knowledge of the subject matter of the Memorial, of which they might be possessed, and obtained all other information immediately accessible to them.— From those sources they find that, there are several gentlemen of the name of George Dashiell residing in Somerset county, some of them distinguished by a patronymic, others by a middle name or letter, and some by the addition of junior; but that no other George Dashiell than the member returned was a candidate in that county at the last election of delegates to the General Assembly. It is true that some considerable time before the election took place, it had been talked of in that county that a George Dashiell, but who your committee understand is designated as George Dashiell, of John, would be a candidate for the next House of Delegates. He was, however, never announced as such, and upon being asked about three months before the election, by one of the present delegates from that county, whether he was a candidate? he declared that he was not, nor should he be. And all those gentlemen concur in the belief, that although the letter A in the middle name might have been omitted on some of the tickets counted for George A. Dashiell, but which does not appear to have been the case, other than by the statement of the memorialist, yet that he was the only George Dashiell intended to be voted for; one of them particularly observed, that notwithstanding he resides within a few hundred yards of the memorialist, and was in the habits of conversation with him, he never intimated an intention to contest the return, and that the first surmise of that sort which he received was after his arrival in this city. Your committee hope that it will not be deemed impertinent to remark, that the conduct of the memorialist in applying for the station of Reading Clerk to the House, was totally inconsistent with what they believe would be the course of a gentleman determined to contest the seat of a member as being illegally returned in his stead, or at least of one who was conscious or conceived, that he had a right to a seat in this house; and this the more especially casts a suspicion upon his own confidence in the justice of his pretention and the fact of his right, as it was not until he found himself disappointed in the application that he resorted to the course which he has pursued. And although the waiver of a right may not at all times disprove its existence, yet he will scarcely be presumed to have waived it, whose principle anxiety would seem to be rather that "the voice of the people should prevail," than his own individual wishes be gratified; nor has the memorialist produced to your committee any evidence whatever to fortify his statements, and had there been such they conceive that without much difficulty, it might have been adduced. Upon a view of the case then, with all its circumstances and in all its lights and bearings, they have no hesitation in recommending that the sitting member be confirmed in his seat. All which is most respectfully submitted.

By order,

J. COCKEY, Jr. Clk.

Which was read.

The house adjourns until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

MONDAY, December 15, 1823.

The House met. Present the same members as on Saturday. The proceedings of Saturday were read.

Henry Franklin, Esq. a delegate returned for Worcester County, appeared, qualified, and took his seat.

Mr. W. Stewart reports a bill, entitled, an additional supplement to the act entitled, a supplement to the act, entitled an act to provide for a new assessment, and to appoint collectors of the tax in and for the city and county of Baltimore, which was read.

The bill for the relief of Nancy Cox, of Charles county, and the bill for the benefit of George W. Neale, of Charles county, and for other purposes, were read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

On motion by Mr. Semmes, leave given to bring in a bill, entitled, an act to authorise Josias Young, of Prince George's county, to convey the right of his wife Evelina Young, to a certain tract of land in Charles county. Ordered, that Messrs. Semmes, Merrick, and E. B. Duvall, report the same.

The bill to authorise John Mason, of Worcester county, to import certain slaves into this state; and the bill for the support of Jemima Floyd, and her infant children; were read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Merrick presents a petition from Catharine Wager, and James B. Wager, praying an extension of the time prescribed for them to commence the building of a bridge over the Potomac river, at Harper's Ferry; read, and referred to Messrs. Merrick, Gabby, and Bowles.

Mr. W. Stewart presents a memorial from the president, directors and stockholders of the Commercial and Farmers' Bank of Maryland, praying that the shares of that bank may be reduced; read and referred to Messrs. W. Stewart, E. B. Duvall, Johnson, Hopper, and Dennis.