

When seeking their just rights in the state of Pennsylvania, associations having been formed to assail the claimant of any coloured man, and have proceeded to unwarrantable personal attacks, in subjecting to ignominious imprisonment honourable men, (which fact has come to the knowledge of many members of this house,) upon the false and wicked pretence, that they were kidnappers; and as the laws of Pennsylvania furnish no adequate remedy, against the growing evil, and as the same difficulties exist, and the same dangers attend all persons pursuing their property, therefore Ordered, That a committee be appointed to go forthwith to Harrisburgh, in Pennsylvania, who are hereby instructed, to exert all their ability and diligence, to procure a law, increasing the fine upon persons protecting and secreting slaves, the property of citizens of this state, and to aggravate the punishment upon persons resisting the execution of their laws, in attacking the rightful owners of such slaves, and that the county and borough constables, be required to render every assistance in arresting the runaway slaves from Maryland, and that a law be passed prescribing that each black man, should have the record evidence of his freedom, or that the undisputed reputation of his neighbourhood should establish it.

Mr Millard delivers the following report:

The committee to whom the petition of Eleanor Foreman, alias Gray, of the city of Annapolis, was referred, have had the subject under consideration, and beg leave to report, that they deem it inexpedient to introduce a bill such as would meet the wishes of the petitioner. There are but few reasons which could be urged to induce them to report a bill a vinculo matrimonii; and Mr Foreman having been divorced from bed and board, only two sessions since, the committee think that quite as much as her case merits, they therefore recommend that the petitioner have leave to withdraw her petition.

By order,

WM. H. EMORY, Clk.

Which was twice read and concurred with.

The clerk of the senate returns the bill to enable the mayor and city council of Frederick, to receive a bequest for the purposes therein mentioned; the bill to enable William H. Willson of Baltimore county to purchase and hold real property; the bill for the benefit of the heirs of Patrick Kennedy, and the supplement to an act to incorporate the trustees of the Franklin Academy or school in Baltimore county, severally endorsed 'will pass.' Ordered to be engrossed. Also the bill for the relief of John Middleton of Prince-George's county, endorsed 'will pass,' with the proposed amendment; which amendment was read. Also the bill for the relief of Edward Ellsworth of the city of New York, endorsed 'will pass with the proposed amendment;' which amendment was read, assented to, and the bill ordered to be engrossed. Also the bill to suspend the execution of the twelfth section of the supplement to a militia law passed February 20th, 1824, until the first day of July 1825, endorsed 'will not pass.' Also the resolution in favour of captain James Dooly, endorsed 'assented to,' Also the resolution in favour of Alexander Robertson, endorsed 'assented to with the proposed amendment;' which amendment was read. And delivers the following message:

BY THE SENATE, February 11, 1824.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate have learned with regret that your honourable body have rejected the bill, entitled, A supplement to an act, entitled, An act against excessive usury, and have returned the said bill to your honourable body, and request that you will reconsider the same on the point of the act to which this is a supplement, the provisions of which are intended to be modified by the proposed supplement; the senate will make no remarks, but in justification of the proposed amendment, they will observe, that the objects to be obtained by it are good faith and security in contracts. That great hardships have resulted to society from the construction which has been given to this statute, is apparent; that it has been made a sword, instead of a shield, is universally acknowledged. That it has been perverted from the uses for which it was intended, and is calculated to destroy that confidence which should subsist in our social relations and contracts with each other, is too evident to require an argument. That it has been made a trap, into which many unsuspecting men have been ensnared to their ruin, many cases might be adduced to prove. The senate will further observe that our statute of usury was modelled on the British statute, and that that statute has been already remodelled by provisions similar to those now again submitted to your consideration. And as the object of this bill is not to abolish the statute of usury, but merely to protect the fair and bona fide holder, without notice of any previous usury, the senate hope, that your honourable body will reconsider and pass the same.

By order,

WM. KILTY, Clk.

M Tyson obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, A further supplement to the act, entitled, An act relating to public roads in the counties therein mentioned. Ordered, That Messrs. Tyson, Howard, Worthington, Shower and Price, report the same.

Mr Chapman delivers the following report:

The committee upon special acts of insolvency, to whom were referred the several petitions of William Cockey, John Leatherwood, and Fuz King, of the city of Baltimore, and that of George Davidson of Cecil county, after giving to their several applications, that attention to which all prayers for legislative relief are entitled, respectfully ask leave to report, That in the case of William Cockey, your committee are of opinion, that the legislature cannot consistently pass a special act in his favour. He states in his petition, that he has not been able to obtain a favourable report from the commissioners of insolvent debtors for the city and county of Baltimore, and that he cannot, under the law of the land, appear before them again until two years shall have expired. Your committee are opposed to the passage of unnecessary laws, and whenever an application is made to this house for relief, which can be obtained under the existing laws of the state, they are of opinion, that it is travelling beyond the line of their duty, and opening a door to fraud, to recommend the enactment of a special law, that has no other operation, and affords no further relief, than can be obtained under the general insolvent laws of the state. Your committee think, that the petitioner's case is provided for, by the act of assembly of 1816, chapter 221, and the several supplements thereto, and that the difficulty of which he complains, is removed by the supplement passed Dec session 1822, ch. 102. Your committee are not aware, that the commissioners of insolvent debtors for the city and county of Baltimore, have acted improperly in this case, or that they have refused to grant that relief, which is held out to the debtor by the insolvent laws of the state; and if they should report a bill, favourable to the prayer of the petitioner, it would be a censure upon the tribunal, before which his case was first laid. They therefore recommend, that he have leave to withdraw his petition; and would recommend him again to the commissioners of insolvent debtors, a tribunal competent, in the opinion of your committee, to hear his case, and grant him the relief which he prays, if he is bona fide entitled to it. Upon the petition of John Leatherwood, who prays, that the commissioners may give him a second hearing, the committee are of opinion, that the petitioner's case is provided for by the act of assembly passed at December session 1822 chapter 102, and that the commissioners are competent