

On motion by Mr. McClean, the following resolution was read, assented to, and sent to the senate.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore of this state, pay to Andrew Slicer, messenger of the senate, and to John Quynn, door keeper of the house of delegates, the sum of sixty dollars each, for taking care of the furniture of their respective houses during the recess of the legislature.

On motion by Mr. Merrick. Ordered, That the committee on engrossed bills be authorized to employ any additional clerks which may be necessary to expedite the business of the session.

Mr. M'Mahon delivers the following report:

The committee of grievances and courts of justice, to whom was referred the memorial of James P. Heath, late register of the court of chancery, beg leave to submit the following report: In compliance with an order of this house, adopted at an early period of this session, it became their duty to inquire into the delinquencies of the late registers in chancery, and to ascertain and report to this house, how far those delinquent officers had complied with a resolution passed at the last general assembly, which required of them the completion of their records on or before the 1st of January 1825. In doing this, they deemed it proper, in order to a justification of the coercive measures to which the state was about to resort, to present a full and perfect view, as far as practicable, of the extent of these delinquencies, and of the efforts heretofore made to obviate the consequences resulting, or likely to result from them. The report made by them was designed to expose and censure official negligence, wherever found, within the range of their inquiries, without regard to the persons to whom it might be imputed; and it was founded solely upon the fact of negligence long continued, often admonished, yet never atoned for. The memorialist, James P. Heath, esq. having been reported to the last general assembly as one of those defaulting registers, and having been embraced by the resolution of the last session, his conduct, as manifesting the same unmitigated neglect which marked that of the other registers, of course met with the same reprobation. To exonerate himself from the common charge of negligence, Mr. Heath has deposed in his memorial, certain facts which have never been presented to this or any preceding committee, and which, although they do not fully justify, will yet be found to extenuate his neglect in a great degree; and it is therefore but due to him, and to the public, that the same publicity should be given to these alleviating facts, which has already been given to the common censure. From the certificates of respectable gentlemen, employed as clerks in his office it seems that Mr. Heath, from the moment of his entrance into the office, had a clerk in his employ expressly for the purpose of recording, and that by this clerk the records had been in a great degree regularly kept up, until the executive took possession of all the papers of the office, under a resolve of the legislature, and sent them into the country. It seems further, that even after the removal of the papers, the recording clerk followed them into the country for the purpose of keeping up the records, but that he was precluded by constant calls upon him for the performance of military duty, and that the papers remained in this condition, and these difficulties existed, until the resignation of Mr. Heath. These facts seem wholly to exonerate Mr. Heath from the common charge of negligence down to the moment of his resignation; but although the papers after their removal never came into his office, or directly under his control as register, still it was unquestionably his duty, after all these obstacles had been removed, to have completed his records as speedily as possible, and not to have suffered them to remain in a state of chaotic confusion for nine years. Nor can the committee find any matter of justification in the other facts disclosed in the memorial, and sustained by the statements of the gentlemen above referred to, which shows the small amount of fees, and the yet smaller amount of receipts during the time that Mr. Heath acted as register, and the great expense incurred in the constant payment of fixed salaries to clerks, who were frequently interrupted in their avocations by calls upon them for military service. These statements do but prove, that Mr. Heath held this office at an unlucky moment, when the receipts of office were comparatively inconsiderable, and may perhaps draw a shade of difference between his culpability, and that of more fortunate officers. Yet, although the aggregate of fees was not the same, the fees allotted for the performance of each official act, were those which preceding and succeeding registers had enjoyed, those for which Mr. Heath had engaged to perform the duties of his office, and for which he ought to have performed them. Yet his omission is one of a redeemable character; and in present promptness in the completion of his records, the citizens of this state will very readily forget or pardon all his past negligence or omission. All which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. B. LATIMER Clk.

By order,

Which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. John Edelen delivers the following report:

The committee of claims to whom was referred the petition of Edward Pye of Charles county, praying to be compensated for collecting, storing, and shipping arms belonging to the state, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:—That from an examination of all the circumstances connected with the petitioner's claim, and the affidavit accompanying the same, they are of opinion, that the petitioner is entitled to the sum of fifty dollars as a compensation for his labour and trouble, which appears from the affidavit, the governor and council were willing to allow when his account was submitted to them. It appearing however, that he has in his possession a parcel of arms, your committee are of opinion, that he should be required to deliver the said arms to the armorer before he shall be entitled to the said compensation, they therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution. Resolved, That the treasurer of the western shore be & he is hereby directed to pay to Edward Pye, or order, the sum of fifty dollars, for collecting and storing arms belonging to the state; provided, however, that the said Edward Pye shall first deliver to the armorer at Annapolis, the arms belonging to the state now in his possession.

By order,

WM H. EMORY, Clk.

Which was twice read, the resolution assented to, and sent to the senate.

Mr. Dalrymple delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred so much of the executive communication as relates to the wood necessary for the consumption of the state, beg leave to report.—That they have had the same under consideration, and from the information which they have derived, from a report made by that department, (in obedience to an order of this house,) are of opinion that this article is consumed by persons, whom,