

committee, that from a great accumulation of business in the courts of that district, for the last two or three years, arising in part from the pecuniary distresses of the people, that the clerks have not been able to keep their records in a due state of forwardness; this difficulty however your committee are informed, is gradually ceasing, and the records are expected hereafter to be kept in more forwardness and regularity. From the honourable Edmund Key, your committee have not heard.

From the second judicial district, your committee have heard from the honourable Richard Tilghman Earle, the presiding judge, and the honourable Robert Wright. Your committee are satisfied, that the failure in receiving the information required from the honourable Lemuel Purnell, proceeds from circumstances over which he has no control. It appears from the communications accompanying the letter of judge Earle, that the records of Cecil county court are all completed. The records of Kent county court are not in as good a state, owing to the death of the clerks of that court; but your committee are informed, that suits have already been instituted upon the bonds of the delinquent clerks. It further appears, that the records of Talbot county court are completed to the first of this month, except some of the judgments which should have been recorded by Benjamin Stevens, a former clerk of that court, and in those cases the papers have been lost or destroyed by time. The records of Queen-Anne's county court are also nearly complete, and would have been entirely so, but for the indisposition of the clerks attached to that office, to enable the clerk to finish his records, in the same manner that it appears his others have been kept, your committee recommend the adoption of the resolution herewith reported.

The committee have also received information from the several judges of the third judicial district, that the records of Calvert county court are complete, and those of Montgomery, except those between the periods of 1795, and 1817. A resolution has already passed this house, allowing further time to the clerk of Anne-Arundel county court to complete his records. Your committee received no information upon this subject of the records of the court of the last mentioned county. It also appears from communications received from the honourable William Bond Martin, and the honourable James B. Robins, that the records of Dorchester county court are complete. In some of the courts of the fourth district, the records are not complete, arising, as your committee are informed, from the death and resignation of the clerks; but that the court have specified certain periods to which the unfinished records shall be completed; since which time they are in a considerable state of forwardness. In Caroline county court further time has already been allowed to complete the records of chancery proceedings. In Harford county, in the sixth judicial district, the records are all complete since 1817, and the clerk is now engaged in recording the proceedings of the court, which remain unrecorded, previous to that time. In Baltimore county court the records are in a singular state of completion.

The communication received from the judges of the fifth judicial district has been very explicit, and is another evidence of the correctness with which business is transacted in that district. It appears, by attested copies of orders transmitted to the committee by the honourable John Buchanan and Thomas Buchanan, that orders have been passed in each of the county courts in their district, and the records in most