

representatives of said commonwealth, relative to the cession of territory to the United States; which was read, referred to the consideration of the house of delegates, and sent by Samuel Hughes, Esquire.

Mr. Pinkney, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act to repeal certain parts of an act, entitled, An act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free, or the manumission of slaves by any last will and testament, and of a supplementary act thereto, and for certain other purposes, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 15, 1789: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 22, 1789: Read the second time and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

On motion, Leave was given to bring in a bill, entitled, An act to alter the time of holding the court of appeals; which was read the first and second time by especial order and will pass.

The bill, entitled, An act to repeal certain parts of an act, entitled, An act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free, or the manumission of slaves by any last will or testament, and of a supplementary act thereto, and for certain other purposes, was read the second time by especial order and will pass with the proposed amendment.

Amendment proposed. Strike out the following words in the 1st enacting clause: "Nor unless the will be made three months previous to the death of such testator."

The bill, entitled, An act to alter such parts of the constitution and form of government as require certain oaths to be taken by members of the general assembly and electors of the senate, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

The senate adjourns until 4 o'clock.

#### P O S T M E R I D I E M.

The senate met, and adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

#### W E D N E S D A Y, December 23, 1789.

**T**HE senate met. Present as on yesterday. Nicholas Hammond, Esquire, appeared in the senate. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

Mr. Craik, from the house of delegates, delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act respecting the debtors and creditors of this state under the act to establish funds to secure the payment of the state debt within six years, and for the punctual payment of the annual interest thereon, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 21, 1789: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 22, 1789: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

And a bill, entitled, An act relating to writs of *capias ad satisfaciendum*, endorsed; "By the house of delegates, December 21, 1789: Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

"By the house of delegates, December 22, 1789: Read the second time by especial order and will pass.

"By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk."

Which three last mentioned bills were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill, entitled, An act to authorize one justice of the peace to determine in case of small debts, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time by especial order and will pass with the following amendments.

Amendments proposed. Strike out the words "ten pounds," in the 7th line of the 1st page, and insert "seven pounds ten shillings;" and in the succeeding line strike out the words "one thousand," and insert "seven hundred and fifty." Strike out the words "money or tobacco above specified," in the 10th line of the same page, and insert "five pounds current money, or five hundred pounds of tobacco." In the 8th line of the 2d page insert "seven pounds ten shillings," instead of "ten pounds." In the 9th line of the 2d page strike out the word "twelve," and insert "six." In the 7th page, between the 6th and 7th lines, insert "and they may examine either party, on oath or affirmation, relative to the matter in controversy." In the 8th line of the 7th page, before the word "the," insert the word "during." In the 4th line of the 8th page, before the word "pay," insert the word "not." After the word "notwithstanding," in the 11th line of the 9th page, insert the following clause: "And be it enacted, That judgment shall not be rendered by any justice of the peace upon any matter chargeable in account against the estate of deceased persons, unless an account thereof be produced by the party claiming the benefit thereof, and be verified by the oath or affirmation of such party within the space of one year from the date of the first article therein mentioned, or be so verified by the oath or affirmation of a disinterested witness within the space of three years from the date of the first article mentioned in such account." Strike out from the word "county," at the end of the 2d line of the 10th page, to the word "and," in the 7th line of the same page, and insert "And be it enacted, That the justices of the several county courts within this state shall not hold plea in the said courts of any debt or damage which shall not exceed seven pounds ten shillings current money, or seven hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco, or of any action of trover and conversion, wherein the damages shall not exceed five pounds current money.

"Provided