

the chancellor, and depositions have been taken, which have delayed the decision of the said cause, and this assembly thinking it reasonable that they should be indulged in payment of the debt aforesaid, until a decision of the said suit in chancery; **RESOLVED**, That all proceedings against the aforesaid John Taylor, and the estate of Alexander Cowan, deceased, be suspended until the decision of the said suit in chancery, or the end of the next session of assembly, which shall first happen.

By order,

W. HARWOOD, clk.

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

The bill to provide for the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Easton, in Talbot county, and to establish and regulate a market at the said town, was read the second time by especial order and will pass.

The bill to establish a market at Easton, in Talbot county, and for the regulation of the said market, was read the second time and will not pass.

The bill 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, passed with the following amendments, and, with the two bills last before mentioned, was sent to the house of delegates by James Carroll, Esquire.

Amendments proposed. Strike out the words "of the third section," after the word "part," in the 8th line from the top of the 1st page; and after the word "testament," in the 10th line from the top of the same page, insert "which is contained within the third section thereof." After the word "repealed," in the said 10th line of the same page, add the following section: "And be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, capable in law to make a valid will and testament, to grant freedom to, and effect the manumission of, any slave or slaves belonging to such person or persons, by his, her, or their last will and testament, and such manumission of any slave or slaves may be made to take effect at the death of the testator or testators, or at such other periods as may be limited in such last will and testament." Strike out the words "not exceeding," in the 5th line from the bottom of the first page, and instead thereof insert the word "under." At the end of the bill, add the following sections: "And, whereas it is just and reasonable that the faithful services of slaves should not be forgotten after they are grown old, or incapable of labour, and humanity requires that such slaves, when grown old in service, or rendered infirm by accidents or misfortunes, should be still supported and maintained by their masters, mistresses or owners; Be it therefore further enacted, That if any master, mistress, owner or owners, of any slave or slaves, grown old and incapable of labour, or otherwise disabled by sickness or accident, shall refuse or neglect to provide necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering or dwelling, for such old or disabled slave or slaves, or shall suffer any such slave or slaves to depart from their respective habitation or quarter, and wander or remain at large, begging or becoming burthensome to the respective neighbourhoods, or to other persons, it shall be lawful for the justices of the county courts, where the master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves shall reside, and they are hereby required, upon the complaint or information of any credible person, (such complaint or information being supported by oath or affirmation,) to cause such complaint or information to be minuted among their proceedings, and thereupon to issue their warrant to the sheriff of their county against such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, thereby to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, to appear before them on the day to be limited in such warrant, and if, on a due examination in a summary way, the said justices shall be satisfied that such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, have not provided necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering or dwelling, for such slave or slaves, or have suffered such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions and intention of this act, the said justices are hereby empowered and required to cause such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, to enter into a recognizance, with one sufficient surety, if the same shall be awarded, in the penalty of thirty pounds current money, to be taken to, and in the name of, this state; and the condition of the said recognizance shall be such, that if such master, mistress, owner or owners, of such slave or slaves, his, her, or their executors or administrators, shall not provide necessary and sufficient food, cloathing, covering and dwelling, for such slave or slaves, or shall suffer such slave or slaves to depart and wander, or remain at large, contrary to the provisions of the act of assembly in such cases made and provided, then such recognizance shall remain in force and virtue; and if any such master, mistress, owner or owners, of any such slave or slaves, shall afterwards commit any breach of the condition of such recognizance, it shall be lawful for any person to put in suit and prosecute such recognizance against the cognizor or cognizors thereof; and if the master, mistress, owner or owners, bound by such recognizance, his, her, or their executors or administrators, shall be convicted of any of the breaches assigned by verdict, confession or otherwise, the judgment of the court shall be rendered for the penalty and costs of suit, and the same may be recovered by any process of execution, and one third of the penalty shall be applied to the use of the prosecutor, and the remainder to the use of the poor of the county in which such conviction shall happen, and the person prosecuting such recognizance, shall be endorsed upon the original writ, and be answerable for the fees and costs: Provided, that if any slave or slaves shall run away or abscond from the service of their master, mistress, owner or owners, contrary to the will of such master, mistress, owner or owners, such running away and absconding shall not be construed, deemed or taken, to be a departing and wandering, or remaining at large, within the meaning of this act."

On motion, Richard Ridgely, Esquire, brings in and delivers to the president a bill, entitled, An act for the suppression of fairs throughout this state; which was read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

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