

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 20, 1804.

AT November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, the legislature of Maryland passed a resolution, directing one thousand pounds to be advanced to Dennis Griffith, then employed in preparing a map of Maryland, on condition of securing the repayment of the said sum, with interest; this condition, your committee believe, was intended rather to secure the performance of the work than the repayment of the money; such a map was indispensable to the state for public and private purposes, and no doubt the legislature would have readily contributed that sum for the encouragement of the work, had they been certain of the work being eventually and so ably executed as it has been; the bonds, however, remained in the treasury, and the legislature has since discharged the principal, Dennis Griffith, by an act of insolvency, but have continued to exact the interest from, and hold the securities bound for, the repayment of the principal sum; these securities had been induced to join in the bond from the most benevolent motives, excited by the uncommon talents and amiable qualities of their unfortunate principal, without any prospect whatever of advantage to themselves, and ultimately one of them, Horatio Johnson, has died, leaving his wife and eight orphan children in distressed circumstances. Your committee pretend not to investigate the legal effect of an act of the state liberating their principal debtor from his obligations, and holding his securities liable for the whole sum due to them, but they do not hesitate to observe, that to continue rigorously to exact from this helpless family their proportion of a sum of money so circumstanced, the payment of which must take the bread from the mouths of the widow and orphan, of a sum of money from which their husband and father never was to have derived the smallest advantage, for the repayment of which he became involved by a benevolent act of friendship, which the laws of society render frequently indispensable in social intercourse, and from which the state has already received ample remuneration, by a great and useful public work, and in their opinion be unworthy of those generous and upright principles which ought to guide, and so frequently have influenced, the legislature of Maryland on similar occasions. Your committee have therefore prepared and submit the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the treasurer of the western shore be and he is hereby directed to enter an exoneration on the bonds of Dennis Griffith and his securities, so as to discharge the estate and heirs of Horatio Johnson of the proportion thereof due from them and the other co-obligors, from any claim or demand of the state for and on account of the said proportion of the said Horatio Johnson.

By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk.

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, DECEMBER 4, 1804.

RESOLVED, That no suit be instituted against John C. Bond, late sheriff of Harford county, or his securities, to recover the balance due from him to the state of Maryland, until after the twentieth day of November, 1805; and that the said John C. Bond, and his securities, be and they are hereby indulged in the payment of the balance till the period above mentioned, and the said John C. Bond, and his securities, be released from the payment of nine per cent. interest on the same, on his or their paying the balance of the principal, with six per cent. interest thereon, on or before the twentieth day of November, eighteen hundred and five.

By order,

J. B. DUCKETT, clk.

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

The senate adjourns until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, December 24, 1804.

THE senate met. Present the same members as on Saturday. The proceedings of Saturday were read. The clerk of the house of delegates delivers a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Robert Morgan, of Harford county, a bill, entitled, A supplement to the act, entitled, A further additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to direct descents, a bill, entitled, A further additional supplement to an act, entitled, An act to erect a town in Queen-Anne's county, a bill, entitled, An act to incorporate the union insurance company of Maryland, severally passed by that house December 22, 1804; and a bill, entitled, An act to encourage the destruction of crows in the several counties therein mentioned, passed by that house December 24, 1804.

The bill, entitled, An act authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money to purchase a fire engine for the town of Elkton, in Cæcil county, and for other purposes, was read the second time, passed, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The bill, entitled, An additional supplement to an act, entitled, An act to improve and repair the streets in Frederick-town, in Frederick county, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and the bill, entitled, An act to incorporate the stockholders in the Union Bank of Maryland, were sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

The following message was read, agreed to, and sent to the house of delegates by the clerk.

BY THE SENATE, DECEMBER 24, 1804.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

WE have received your message of the 21st instant, and have appointed Mr. Partridge, Mr. Houston, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Brown and Mr. Fossitt, a committee on the part of the senate to join the gentlemen by you appointed to compare and examine the engrossed bills.

By order,

T. W. HALL, clk.