

by the seizure of their bedding, wearing apparel, or implements of cooking or of labour, on execution or distress, if such measure can be so guarded and defined, as to avoid the danger of its doing harm instead of good, to those whom the legislature, and every individual in his sphere, is bound to comfort and protect. With this view we have passed a bill which we hope may attain the object, in an effectual and unexceptionable manner, and in which we respectfully request your concurrence.

There indeed now exists a provision on this subject, which is contained in the fifth section of the act of April 1715, ch 45, but it is confined to executions, and is far too vague and indefinite. It is also understood to have long since fallen into disuse in many counties. For these reasons we think that it ought to be repealed, and have inserted into our bill a clause for that purpose.

With this measure for the relief of poor and distressed families, is connected another, which in our opinion will contribute still more to the attainment of the object, by checking the vice of drunkenness, from which a great portion of their distress springs. Poor families, consisting of helpless women and children, are more frequently reduced to suffering through intemperance, and consequent idleness and extravagance of their husbands and fathers, than by any other cause; and this intemperance is very greatly encouraged, by the facility of drinking on credit. To prevent debts thus contracted from being recovered at law, would in our opinion be one of the best and most effectual means of destroying this facility, and of discouraging the vice to which it leads.

We have therefore inserted a provision to this effect into the bill in question, and hope that it will receive your approbation.

By order,

J. N. WATKINS, Clk.

Which was read, and the question put, Will the senate assent to the same? The yeas and nays being required appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.—Mr. President, Messrs. Cresap, Emerson, Gale, Harper, Holliday, Jackson.—7.

NEGATIVE.—Messrs. Carmichael, Hughlett, Magruder, Parnham.—4.

Determined in the affirmative, and sent to the house of delegates, with the bill for the relief of poor and distressed families in cases of execution for debt, and distress for rent, to which it relates.

Mr. Gale from the committee to whom was recommended the bill for the better administration of justice in the several county courts in this state, reports the same with sundry amendments; which were read, and on motion of Mr. Gale, the question was put, Will the senate receive the following amendment: In the 2d sec. from the word "trial" 4th line strike out to the end of the sec. and insert "according to the principles and usages of law which apply to civil cases." The yeas and nays being required appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.—Mr. President, Messrs. Cresap, Emerson, Gale, Harper, Holliday, Hughlett, Jackson, Magruder, Maxcy, Parnham, Taney, West.—13.

NEGATIVE.—Mr. Carmichael.—1.

Determined in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Carmichael, the question was then put, Will the senate strike out the 2d section? Determined in the negative.

On motion of Mr. Gale, the question was then put, Will the senate strike out the 3d and 4th sections? Resolved in the affirmative.

The question was then put, Shall the bill as amended pass? The yeas and nays being required appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE.—Mr. President, Messrs. Cresap, Gale, Harper, Holliday, Hughlett, Jackson, Maxcy, Parnham, Taney, West.—11.

NEGATIVE.—Messrs. Carmichael, Emerson.—2.

Determined in the affirmative.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill to lay out and open a road from the Conowingo bridge in Cecil county, to the Pennsylvania line; which was read and the consideration thereof further postponed.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivers the following message:

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Jan. 24, 1821.

Gentlemen of the Senate,

We propose, with the concurrence of your honourable body, to proceed on to-morrow at 12 o'clock to the election of directors on the part of the state for the Union Bank of Maryland, the Mechanics Bank of Baltimore, the Commercial and Farmers Bank of Baltimore, the Farmers Bank of Maryland at Annapolis, the branch of the Farmers Bank of Maryland at Easton, the Hager's-town Bank, and the Elkton Bank of Maryland. The following gentlemen are put in nomination on the part of this house for directors: For the Union Bank of Maryland, William Pinkney, jr. and William Stansbury; for the Mechanics Bank of Baltimore, Tobias E. Stansbury and William Stewart; for the Commercial and Farmers Bank of Baltimore, John Barney and Upton Bruce; for the Farmers Bank of Maryland at Annapolis, William Kilty and Nicholas Brewer, senr. for the branch of the Farmers Bank of Maryland at Easton, Lambert Reardon and William Clark; for the Hager's-town Bank, John Buchanan and Daniel Schnebly; for the Elkton Bank of Maryland, George Beaston. Messrs. Marriott and Millard are appointed by this house to join such gentlemen as may be named by you to count the ballots and report thereon.

By order,

J. BREWER, Clk.

Which was read.

Also a bill, entitled, An act authorising Edmund Henry Contee to remove certain negroes into the state of Maryland; and a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Basil Dever, of Frederick county; which were read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Harper from the committee reports a bill, entitled, An act to extend the powers of the levy court of Baltimore county in the case therein mentioned; which was read the first time and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Gale, for the second reading of the bill to amend and reduce into one system the laws to direct descents, Mr. Carmichael moved to refer the consideration of the same to the next general assembly. The question was put, Will the senate refer the same? The yeas and nays being required appear as follow: