

An act to authorise the levy court of Frederick county to appoint commissioners for the purposes therein mentioned; which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Kennedy, Forrest and Herbert.

And a bill, entitled, *An additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to incorporate a company for the purpose of cutting and making a canal between the river Delaware and the Chesapeake Bay; which was read the first time and referred to the committee on internal improvement.*

Mr. Rees, from the committee, made a favourable report upon the bill, entitled, *An act to incorporate a company for erecting a bridge over the Sassafras river, at the place where the public ferry is now kept, from Frederick-town, in Cecil county, to George-town, in Kent county.*

The said bill was then read a second time.

Mr. Smith, from the committee, reported a bill, entitled, *A supplement to an act, entitled, An act to prevent obstructions in Smith's and other private docks in the city of Baltimore; which was read the first time.*

Mr. Heath, offered the following message; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

By the Senate,

February 8, 1831.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

The senate returns, and respectfully requests the reconsideration, by your honourable body, of the bill making certain changes in the constitution in relation to the removal of proceedings in criminal cases.

The evil which the bill is intended to remedy, is great and oppressive, to the people in many sections of the state, and is daily increasing. At present the power of removal, in minor cases of felony, and in those of misdemeanor, is greatly abused. The power rests exclusively with the accused—with the very person who is most deeply interested in the matter, and whose judgment is therefore the least to be trusted. By these removals, witnesses are compelled to attend at great inconvenience and expense in distant places. In truth, the present system of removal is so burthensome and expensive, that in many cases it is impossible to secure the attendance of witnesses, and the consequence of their nonattendance, an exemption from condign punishment necessarily follows. Thus in many instances the hardened and incorrigible depredator is let loose on society, again to repeat, or rather continue his system of petty depredation. This immunity from punishment, robs the law of its terrors and holds out inducement to crime. The inconvenience too, to the counties, to