

he who fails for thousands and tens of thousands, can get security more easily for his personal appearance at court, than the man who only owes a debt of a few dollars, and which he is unable to pay; and further, any application to the county court for the benefit of the insolvent laws, is always attended with considerable costs, in many instances exceeding the amount of the debt, and it was with a view to relieve the unfortunate class of poor debtors that the senate passed the present bill by an almost unanimous vote; a bill which the principles of justice and humanity call for. The present insolvent laws, as regards poor debtors, are a solemn mockery, they are far worse than the fifty two day imprisonment law, which was the very last act passed by the assembly of Maryland under the proprietary government, at the March session seventeen hundred and seventy four, chapter twenty eight, and which for more than forty years continued to be the law of Maryland, and by that act any debtor owing not more than two hundred pounds sterling, could be discharged from imprisonment by any three justices of the peace, on surrendering his property for the benefit of his creditors.

The senate therefore earnestly requests, that your honourable body will reconsider and pass the bill now returned, entitled, *An act to abolish imprisonment for debt on certain judgments rendered by justices of the peace.*

On motion of Mr. Heath, the committee on the memorial of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, was discharged from the further consideration of the same.

Mr. Heath, from the committee to which was referred the petition of Richard H. Bayard, and others, praying the passage of a law to appoint commissioners to lay out a road from a point near Bohemia ferry to Bohemia village, on Back Creek, and to erect a bridge over said creek, reported, that the committee had had the same under consideration, and were of opinion the prayer thereof ought not to be granted, and that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

Which report was read and concurred in.

The clerk of the house of delegates delivered a bill, entitled, *An act for the relief of sundry poor persons in the several counties therein mentioned; which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Herbert, Smith and Whiteley.*

Also a bill, entitled, *An act relating to the commissioners of Harford and Baltimore counties; which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Sewell, Smith and Rees.*

Also a bill, entitled, *An act for the benefit of Asahel Hussey, and others; which was read the first time and referred to Messrs. Heath, Smith and Forrest.*