

The Petition of Thomas Reading reported till this Day ordered to be read and the Petitioner called into the House, who appeared and the Petitioner read as followeth

To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Speaker and the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Members of the House of Delegates.

The humble Petition of Thomas Reading constituted Printer of the Province of Maryland, humbly prays That your Honours will please to order the Laws of this Province to be printed and this House would give him Encouragement for the speedy finishing the same, and that your Honours would please to settle some Annual Salary for his Support and Encouragement for which he will be obliged to print all publick Matters as Speeches, Answers, Votes, Proclamations &c<sup>ta</sup> as your Honours please to direct.

And further whereas there hath been a former Ordinance of this House to Mr. W. Bladen and others that had printing Presses in the Province obliging all Clerks, Commissaries, Sheriffs, and other Officers to make use of printed Blankes may be renewed and settled on your Petitioner.

And that there is a small House upon Whapping Wharf built by the Publick, but at present of no use, therefore prays that the same be granted him and that you recommend the same to his City and Council for Concurrance.

And your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall pray &c<sup>ta</sup>

Which being read it is proposed what Encouragement might be sufficient to give him for his expeditious printing the Body of the Laws of this Province?

It is resolved <sup>That</sup> for his Encouragement he shall be allowed for each County one and one for this House at the Rate of twenty Shillings for each Body for which each County is to make Satisfaction and the Country but is obliged not to exceed twelve Shillings for the Price of one Body that may be disposed of by him to any Person.

And that for what other Acts shall be passed in any future Assembly to be allowed for the same in Proportion to the present Body of the Laws. Thomas Reading being present in the House readily agreed to the Proposal.

As to that Paragraph relating to the County House being read it is proposed to the Petitioner whether or not he will rent the said House at the Rate of twelve Pence per Annum to be paid to the Treasurer of the Western Shore Annually on Lady Day; putting it in Repair during the Time of four Years to commence from the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of March last past to the which he readily consented and agreed. Thereupon resolved he hold the same for the Term aforesaid in Consideration aforesaid.

It is further proposed to the said Thomas Reading what he will require for a Body of Laws to be copied for the Press. He offers to make the same for two thousand Pounds of Tobacco, and this House agrees thereto, and will consider of, and appoint some Person to examine & correct the same.

(The)